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GOAL! WEEKLY

Season 3: Issue 3 Monday 7th May 2007

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INSIDE THIS WEEK...

Tony Pignata

Phil Stubbins flies South

CANNONS SLIP AGAIN !

MAGIC TAKES TOP SPOT

Photo by Steve Starek

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STUBBSY'S BIG BREAK !

Eagles coach prepares to swoop in the A-League

Richmond Eagles coach, Phil Stubbins, is one coach that is ready to fly. In the same week his side inflicted the first loss of the season to league leaders Oakleigh Cannons with an emphatic 4-1 scoreline, news broke through that Stubbins would be leaving the Kevin Bartlett nest to take up the appointed as Assistant Coach to Adelaide United for the upcoming A-League season. The English journeyman is no stranger to Australian football after initially coming to these shores to play in the NSL for Heidelberg United. After a successful transition from player to the cut throat world of coaching, Stubbins has always held high ambition to mix it in the big time again and has now finally earnt his chance. A multiple championship winner in the Victorian leagues he will remain as coach at Richmond for approximately another month. Eagle's President Helmut Kalitzki expressed that the club was happy for Phil, saying 'It's great opportunity for him. I give him all my blessing and we wish him all the best. We know it was a hard decision for him but we understand he always wanted to coach A-League one day. I would be the last man to stand in his way". The club has already begun in earnest to find a replacement. Goal! Weekly caught up with Phil to see what he had to say...

How did it all come about?
It all happened very quickly. I got a phone call on Saturday asking me if I'd be interested in the assistant coach's role at Adelaide United, and I obviously said I'd be interest in that position. I asked who the head coach would be and they never gave me an answer at that time. They then rang me back on the Sunday evening, because they'd organised for me to go over for an interview on the Tuesday, and they said to forget about the interview about the job because you've got the job. The senior coach will be Aurelio Vidmar and if I wanted to discuss terms and conditions. I went to Adelaide on Tuesday and we had a very good chat and I was certainly happy with the job role that was offered to me.

Were you head-hunted or did you put your name into the ring?
After the A-League Grand Final last year I thought, why not throw my resume in for consideration. So, I did apply for the senior job more or less as a shot in the dark really, but I suppose it was a good spell before the call came through.

Has this opportunity come at a good time for you? Do you feel you've got enough behind you to make the step up?
I'm certainly not phased by the challenge that's been presented to me. Being on the frontline for as long as I have has obviously provided me with a vast experience. I feel more than ready to take on the challenge. It's a better prospect I'll be dealing with – the training facilities, the grounds, the players and commodities are going to be better than what I've been used to. In terms of putting on sessions, the bar has been raised, so to speak. I'm looking forward to it and not afraid of it at all. I'm quite happy with the responsibility that will be placed on my shoulders and certainly excited by the prospect of coaching in the national league.

What sort of ambition do you hold for yourself and for Adelaide United?
I think, first and foremost the ambition is for the club. I've got to give all my energy and effort towards the club, and to Aurelio Vidmar. If the club is doing well, then Aurelio's doing well, and then, you'd think, the rest of the coaching staff are doing a good job as well. My priority at the moment is to give everything I can to the club and the coach in the role that I'm actually in. I did apply for the senior role, so that would suggest that I would like at some point to coach as a head coach in the A-League. Constructively as a career coach, you've got to aim for as high as you can and this has provided me with an opportunity whereby I can showcase what I've got, and hopefully down the track progress to the "top job".

What sort of outlook do you hold, now that you'll be pitting your wits against the best the country has to offer?
Well, that's the best part of it. In the past I've certainly been quite tactical in my approach as a coach. I think every game needs to approached in a different way depending on the opposition you're playing against. I don't think I'll be doing anything different from how I've done it in the past. Thankfully in the past it has proved quite successful for me and having that structured formula won't change with Adelaide. To be involved in a set-up with first class facilities has really got my juices going and I relish the opportunity to being apart of one of Australia's top notch clubs.

What sort of strengths will you be bringing to Hindmarsh?
Obviously I'll be bringing quite a bit of experience to the table. People may not think that because I've not been involved as a coach in the A-League, but having said that, I've been coaching for the last 12 years, and I've put a lot of time and effort to get to this point. I don't think it will be a difficult transition for myself and I'm excited by the propsect.

Do you think it's a good move by A-League clubs to hire coaches from the local leagues as oppose to bringing in big names from overseas, like Sydney FC did with Littbarski and Butcher etc?
Yes I do. Obviously if you're in sync with the landscape, you know what's going on and really and understand the culture of Australian football then I think you are in position to provide a better service for any of these A-League clubs. Provided that you've got your coaching badges and you've been a senior coach for a lengthy period of time then why shouldn't they give a local boy a go? I think it's fantastic for the Victorian Premier League, although this time it's myself, but down the track it might be someone else coming through that's got aspirations to go on to the highest level. I think it's a positive thing for the code, and local coaches and players should be encouraged by that fact.

Do you know much about the Adelaide United side?
This coming season the Adelaide side will be going through a slight transitional period. They've obviously got a number of players who are coming to the end of their careers; Carl Veart looks like he's retiring, Ross Aloisi has left for Wellington Phoenix, whilst Costanzo, Alagich and Valkanis are not getting any younger. I'm not too sure whats happening with Fernado at the moment. But, the other hand you've got players like Kristian Sarkies and Paul Agostino coming through, and if the collection of new boys embrace the opportunity that presents itself, then we should be fine. Obviously, it will be a hard task to try and emulate the achievements set by the club over the last two years – as we all know how successful the club has been since the A-league started.

So, where does this leave Richmond Eagles in all of this?
Firstly, I've got to thank the club for giving me the chance to get back into the game as a coach. The President, Helmut Kalitzki, has been great since day one and I don't think there's any anger from either side. There's a bit of sadness from both sides because we've built a good repoire and a good squad. The team has really come on since I took over, and there's a few men there now instead of boys. I'd like to think I'm leaving the club on very good terms and of course, it will be a bit sad when I actually leave the place

The Stubbins Fact File

Born: 18th October 1962 in Hull, England

The player...
Served an apprenticeship with Hull City FC
Played in the Football League with Mansfield Town
Recruited to come to Australia by Heidelberg United to play in the NSL in 1988
Won 2 Premier League titles with the Bergers and was leading scorer at the club twice
Played for a season in the Malaysian League
Returned to Australia to play for South Melbourne

The coach...
Westvale Olympic: Won promotion from the Fourth to the First Division in 5 years
Whittlesea Stallions: Won two Championships
Heidelberg United: Division One Championship (2004), VPL Grand Final runners-up (2005)
VPL Coach of the Year (2005)
Richmond Eagles: From June '06
Adelaide United: Appointed assistant coach for 07/08 A-League season

Stubbins with Eric Vassiliadis *(now Zebras)* **and Brendan Beni** *(now Richmond)* **after losing the 2005 VPL Grand Final by 2-0 to Green Gully.**

CARL RECCHIA

FAWKNER BLUES FC

FULL NAME: Carl Recchia
BIRTHPLACE: Melbourne, Australia
BIRTH DATE: 13/12/1984
HEIGHT: 180cm
WEIGHT: 82 Kg
MARRIED: Single
CAR: VW Golf
OCCUPATION OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL: None
NICKNAME: Rex
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Melbourne Victory, South Melbourne, VIS
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: None
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Roberto Baggio
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Patrick Viera
FAVOURITE V-LEAGUE PLAYER: Ricky Diaco (South Melbourne)
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Paul Okon
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Harry Kewell
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Round 2 Melbourne Victory v. Perth Glory at a sold out Olympic Park
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Australia v. Uruguay
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Volley against Bulleen last season
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Marcus Stergiopolous tackling himself against Marconi without the ball down the line
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Being released by Melbourne Victory
WORST INJURY: Hamstring
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Myself
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Veneto Club
SUPERSTITIONS: None, Karma will get ya!
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Bowl of Pasta
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Reading the game and distribution
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Mental combat
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Inter Milan
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Tennis and Footy
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Valentino Rossi
FAVOURITE FOODS: Cornflakes, with warm light milk, 5 teddy bears and chocolate Nesquik. Unbelievable!
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Leonardo Di Caprio/ Jessica Alba
HOBBIES: Movies
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Monte Carlo
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Tryst Bar
IDEAL DATE: 176cm, Brunette, olive skin, Green to Hazel eyes, size 8-10. i'm not being pickie!..... but must have a beautiful heart.
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Sopranos, Seinfeld
FAVOURITE MUSIC: House
FAVOURITE FILM: Goodfellas
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Boca Juniors
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: slept with Danni Minogue!
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Family
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: the selling of Pumpkin Seeds
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Play for a full time professional set up
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : Alive: Johnny Depp **Dead:** James Dean
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S V-LEAGUE: Fawkner Blues, with a late run….

GOAL! WEEKLY

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News Room: (03) 9645-1440
Advertising: (03) 9645-1440

news@goalweekly.com
mailbag@goalweekly.com
www.goalweekly.com

Editor: Costa Koutropoulos
Art Director: Carlos Ibarra
Production: Gagandeep Singh

Contributors:
Mark Boric, Richard Bartolo, Simon Chiarelli, George Egonidis, Steven Gray, Nick Townsend, Paul Jefferies, George Katsamboukas, Daryl Kennedy, Eddie Krncevic, Jeremy O'Neil, Teo Pellizzeri, Chris Priftis, George Stogiannou, Reuben Schembri, Richard Sucksmith, Adrian Ceddia, Bruno Zovko, Jason Gillick, Chris Vernuccio, Markian Jaworsky, Nat Adamopoulos, Craig MacKenzie, Bruce Darnell, Elias Simopoulos, Joe Novella

Photographers:
Daniel Flis, Daryl Kennedy, Phuc Pham, John Punshon, Steve Starek. Therese Duffy

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GETTIN' SHIRTY!

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has invited clubs to provide submissions in regard to the FFV's Uniform Apparel and Equipment Licensing program.

The consumer watchdog is to investigate and determine whether or not the FFV's licensing agreement is in the best of public interest and beneficial to its member clubs. The research is also to conclude whether or not the program is of an anti-competitive nature that lessens competition, reduces choice and increases costs to football clubs and its players.

Under the Trade Practices Act 1974 (TPA) the current FFV Licensing deal may be overturned and made void, as it may be proven that it is detrimental to the best interests of its member clubs and restricts clubs to best operate under its own discretion.

At present, the FFV has awarded the Apparel Licenses to Covo, Nike and Adidas. The FFV Balls License was awarded to Nike, Mitre, Patrick and Spartan. Clubs who use alternative suppliers have a grace period to which it must comply with FFV requirements of switching to the FFV's preferred brands.

The argument from the FFV is that these agreements are in place in order to improve the image of the local game as well as improve the minimum standard of quality of equipment and apparel that clubs can use.

The counter argument to this program, raises the point that it is a restriction of trade and clubs should be able to choose which manufacturer they please, when deciding who will kit their respective teams out from year to year.

Some clubs are saying that they are being "bullied" into forking out for new strips at a higher price, when they can comfortably afford alternative apparel uniforms of appropriate quality from suppliers that do not come under the FFV License Program.

In response to the FFV's stance of preferring clubs to go with "higher quality" manufacturers, some clubs are stating that there are many

other companies to choose from (Puma, Gole, Buffalo, Umbro, Reebok, Northcote Sports, Only Sport and Kappa, to name a few), that would be able to provide a satisfactory service, at just as good or even better competitive margins and quality of product.

The deadline to submit evidence to assist the ACCC with its investigation has since passed, but the ACCC still encourages clubs to participate and assist with the exercise and any interested parties can forward any relevant correspondence to:

Email:
adjudication@accc.gov.au

By post:
The General Manager,
Adjudication Branch,
ACCC, PO Box 1199,
Dickson, ACT, 2602.

All submissions to date are presently available to be viewed on the public register of the ACCC's website:
www.accc.gov.au

THE PHOENIX FIVE

WELLINGTON Phoenix FC has announced its first five signings to the new Hyundai A-League club - two current New Zealand internationals and three Australians.

Heading the list is former Adelaide United captain Ross Aloisi, the 34-year-old signing with Phoenix for one year.

Joining Aloisi in the midfield will be New Zealander Tim Brown and Australians Richard Johnson and Michael Ferrante, with current New Zealand goalkeeper Mark Paston also signing on. Brown, Paston and Ferrante have signed two-year deals, with Johnson signing for one year.

Aloisi was captain of Adelaide United for the inaugural season of the Hyundai A-League, leading his side to the premiership. He also captained Adelaide to the Hyundai A-League 2007 Grand Final against Melbourne Victory.

Phoenix coach Ricki Herbert said Aloisi would be invaluable to the club. "Ross brings a wealth of experience and knowledge, as evident in his captaincy at Adelaide. His contribution to that club is shown in the fact that Adelaide has been the most consistent club in the competition in the past two years."

Herbert said the signings of current New Zealand internationals Paston, 30, and Brown, 26, reflected his and Phoenix owner Terry Serepisos' desire to have a strong New Zealand presence at the club.

Paston played for the New Zealand Knights last season and Brown the Newcastle Jets. For Brown the return is a homecoming, having been born in Wellington and played for local club Miramar Rangers before heading overseas.

"It speaks volumes that Tim wants to be a Phoenix player," Herbert said. "During the latter part of last season Tim was an integral part of the Newcastle Jets' midfield through the finals series. From a performance point of view he's played at that high level which will be important.

"Mark (Paston) is the national team goalkeeper. His presence and performances at the back end of last year's A-League for the Knights were quite outstanding," Herbert said.

Ferrante, 26, made five appearances for grand final winners Melbourne Victory last season. Herbert said the opportunity for more game time with Phoenix was an incentive for Ferrante to sign. "He's a different type of midfielder – a good technician," Herbert said. "Having been in a very successful club (Melbourne Victory), he will be looking to set a benchmark for himself with regular appearances for Phoenix. Michael's very keen to make an impression."

Johnson, 33, has played 35 A-League matches with the Jets and Knights, as well as 242 appearances for English club Watford between 1991-2003.

"During my time with Richard at the Knights his work ethic was unquestioned," Herbert said. "He's another signing from an experience point of view that will add strength and steel to the middle of the park."

Herbert said the release of the first signings was just reward for the hard work that had gone into ensuring the club got up to speed as quickly as possible ahead of its opening Hyundai A-League match against Melbourne Victory in Wellington on August 26.

"The process of identifying and recruiting players has been quite exhaustive over the past four to six weeks," Herbert said. "It's nice to be able to bring an initial group to its conclusion at Phoenix. More signings will be released in the coming days."

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STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona Magic	**9**	**4**	**4**	**1**	**17**	**11**	**16**
Oakleigh Cannons	**9**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**17**	**12**	**15**
Richmond	**9**	**4**	**2**	**3**	**18**	**15**	**14**
Green Gully Cavaliers	**9**	**4**	**2**	**3**	**12**	**10**	**14**
Essendon Royals	**9**	**4**	**2**	**3**	**13**	**13**	**14**
Heidelberg Utd	**9**	**4**	**2**	**3**	**13**	**14**	**14**
Preston Lions	9	4	4	1	17	8	13
Melbourne Knights	9	3	4	2	9	7	13
Fawkner Blues	9	3	3	3	8	7	12
Kingston City	9	3	3	3	10	12	12
A.I.S	8	3	1	4	9	11	10
Sunshine Georgies	8	2	4	2	9	11	10
South Melbourne	**8**	**2**	**3**	**3**	**10**	**13**	**9**
Whittlesea Zebras	**8**	**2**	**2**	**4**	**6**	**11**	**8**
Western Suburbs	**9**	**0**	**5**	**4**	**5**	**11**	**5**
Springvale White Eagles	**9**	**1**	**2**	**6**	**8**	**15**	**5**

RESULTS

Kingston City	1 - 1	Richmond Eagles
Altona Magic	3 - 2	Essendon Royals
Springvale WE	1 - 2	Heidelberg United
Fawkner Blues	1 - 0	Green Gully Cavaliers
Melbourne Knights	1 - 0	Oakleigh Cannons
Preston Lions	1 - 1	Western Suburbs
AIS	1 - 2	South Melbourne
Whittlesea Zebras	...-...	Sunshine Georgies

RESERVE DETAILS

Kingston City 5 Richmond 0 (HT: -), Altona Magic 0 Essendon Royals 2 (HT: -), Springvale White Eagles 2 Heidelberg Utd 2 (HT: -), Fawkner Blues 0 Green Gully Cavaliers 0 (HT: -), Melbourne Knights 3 Oakleigh Cannons 1 (HT: -), Preston Lions 1 Western Suburbs 0 (HT: -), V.I.S South Melbourne (HT: -), Whittlesea Zebras Sunshine Georgies (HT: -)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Melbourne Knights	**8**	**6**	**2**	**0**	**19**	**4**	**20**
Springvale White Eagles	**9**	**6**	**2**	**1**	**17**	**7**	**20**
Oakleigh Cannons	**9**	**5**	**1**	**3**	**22**	**16**	**16**
Heidelberg Utd	**9**	**5**	**1**	**3**	**15**	**16**	**16**
Green Gully Cavaliers	**8**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**15**	**9**	**14**
Kingston City	**9**	**4**	**2**	**3**	**13**	**14**	**14**
Fawkner Blues	**9**	**4**	**2**	**3**	**12**	**13**	**14**
Western Suburbs	**9**	**4**	**1**	**4**	**16**	**12**	**13**
Sunshine Georgies	**8**	**4**	**1**	**3**	**15**	**13**	**13**
V.I.S	**8**	**3**	**2**	**3**	**10**	**10**	**11**
Richmond	**9**	**3**	**2**	**4**	**14**	**20**	**11**
Essendon Royals	**9**	**3**	**1**	**5**	**12**	**17**	**10**
Whittlesea Zebras	**8**	**3**	**0**	**5**	**16**	**17**	**9**
Preston Lions	**9**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**13**	**16**	**6**
South Melbourne	**8**	**1**	**1**	**6**	**11**	**20**	**4**
Altona Magic	**9**	**0**	**1**	**8**	**10**	**26**	**1**

ROUND TEN FIXTURES

Richmond
v
Melbourne Knights
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Fri 11 May 8:15PM

Western Suburbs
v
Kingston City
Ralph Reserve
Sun 13 May 3PM

Oakleigh Cannons
v
Fawkner Blues
Jack Edwards Reserve
Fri 11 May 8:15PM

South Melbourne
v
Springvale White Eagles
Bob Jane Stadium
Sun 13 May 4:30PM

Essendon Royals
v
A.I.S
Veneto Social Club
Fri 11 May 8:15PM

Green Gully Cavaliers
v
Altona Magic
Green Gully Reserve
Sun 13 May 6PM

Sunshine Georgies
v
Preston Lions
Chaplin Reserve
Sun 13 May 3:00PM

Heidelberg Utd
v
Whittlesea Zebras
Olympic Park (Village)
Sun 13 May 6PM

The Top Marksmen

Diaco, Ricky
South Melbourne FC
5 goals

Pelikan, Anthony
Oakleigh Cannons FC
5 goals

Becvinovski, Saso
Altona Magic SC
4 goals

Catalano, Michael
Essendon Royals SC
4 goals

Lagana, Frankie M
Essendon Royals SC
4 goals

Nilo, Juan
Oakleigh Cannons FC
4 goals

Pilic, David
Fawkner Blues SC
4 goals

Sulemani, Xhezair
Richmond SC
4 goals

Vulic, Antun
Kingston City FC
4 goals

Zoric, Goran
Springvale White Eagles SC
4 goals

Armenian, Hamlet
Whittlesea Zebras
3 goals

Caldwell, Nathan
South Melbourne FC
3 goals

Fa'arodo, Henry
Richmond SC
3 goals

And don't forget to watch the offside!
the VICTORIAN FOOTBALL SHOW
wednesdays 9pm on channel 31

ALTONA MAGIC

3 - 2

ESSENDON ROYALS

By Reuben Schembri
Photos by Daniel Flis

MAGIC WINS TOP SIX CONTEST

Curcija and Becvinovski Show keeps points at Paisley Park

On a cool but dry Saturday evening at Paisley Park in Altona a small crowd witnessed the home side, Altona Magic, recorded a fairly comfortable win by 3-2. The goals for the Magic were scored by Michael Curcija, who scored a brace, and Sash Becvinovski. The Catalano brothers, Frank and Michael, scored a goal a piece for the visiting Royals.

The game started off with a bang with Altona scoring with practically their first foray into Essendon territory. Goal poacher Michael Curcija showed his knack for being in the right place at the right time. A strong run by Koce Delev along the wing on the far side of the ground saw Delev ping a cross into the middle of the Essendon penalty box, where Curcija connected sweetly with the ball as his strike took a small deflection and past 'keeper Marko Sutalo to open the scoring.

The game ebbed and flowed along with Altona pretty much completely in control of the game. Fidel Richards was proving a handful, with of plenty movement and inventiveness from the Magic which had the Royals in sixes and sevens. The game turned however after a classic goalkeeping blunder by Bojo Jevdjevic in the Altona goals. Essendon were awarded a free kick on the far touchline approximately level with the eighteen yard box. Frank Catalano pinged in a cross which curled in towards the top corner which should have been meat and drink for big Bojo.

The 'keeper came out and proceeded to flap at air, the ball sailed over his head and that of a defender and went directly in the top corner given Essendon a rather undeserved equalizer. Essendon enjoyed some healthy possession after this goal, however Altona pretty much controlled the game still and went into the break at one goal apiece but with all the momentum.

After the break the Magic came out seemingly determined to turn their dominance into a meaningful lead and on fifty-five minutes it scored an impressive goal involving its three main attacking threats of Fidel Richards, Sash Becvinovski and goal scorer, Curcija. Richards made a blistering run along the grandstand touchline and squared a ball back to Delev who sent in a cross which found the head of Becvinovski, who cushioned a header expertly into the onrushing Curcija, who monstered the ball past Sutalo to restore the Magic's lead.

The Magic had taken over at this stage and one was wondering whether the Essendon bubble had burst. It appeared the Royals were open for exposure because they really seemed to lack penetration, desire and a forward who presented any attacking option or posed a threat to the Magic rear guard. The third goal came from 12 yards out from the penalty spot after a shot was fumbled by Sutalo. Becvinovski beat Sutalo to the ball with both players on the floor. Becvinovski was impeded and fouled and the referee rightfully pointed to the penalty spot. Last season's Gold Medal winner and VPL Top Goalscorer stepped up and coolly dispatched his penalty to Sutalo's right hand side with the 'keeper going left.

At this point the game was pretty much over and Altona were still pressed extend its lead. However, it was Essendon who scored right at the end of the match with a goal from Michael Catalano - which proved little more then a consolation. Full time and three goals to two and a satisfying win for the Magic. A result which will ask a lot of questions of the Royals this week.

Next week Altona travel down to Green Gully Reserve to take on the Cavaliers on Mother's Day. Whilst next Friday night the Royals welcome the Institute lads to the Veneto club in a game that will be important to both of them.

Man of the Match:
Fidel Richards
(Altona Magic)

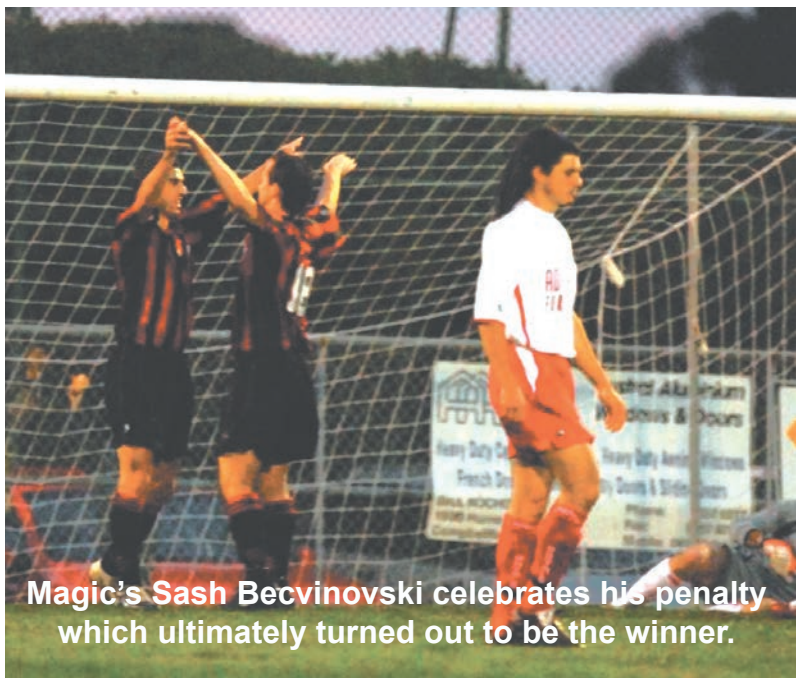
ALTONA MAGIC 3-2 ESSENDON ROYALS
(HT 1-1) Sat 5th May Paisley Park Crowd: 700

GOALS: M. Curcija (AM) 6th min & 34th min, F.Catalano (ER) 25th min
S.Becvinovski (AM) 89th min (pen), M.Catalano (ER) 90th min (pen).
YELLOW CARDS: H.Vrbovak (ER) 14th min, F.Lagana (ER) 35th min,
D.Vasilevski (AM) 41st min, F.Richards (AM) 44th min, S. Bozinovski 84th min
RED CARDS: None

MAGIC: B.Jevdevic, S. Mrkela, L Osman, D.Mladenovic, K.Delev (A.Sherifovski 74th), S.Bocvinovski, D.Vasilevski, S.Bosinovski, P.Cergovski, F. Richards, M.Curcija (I.Kolevski 89th).

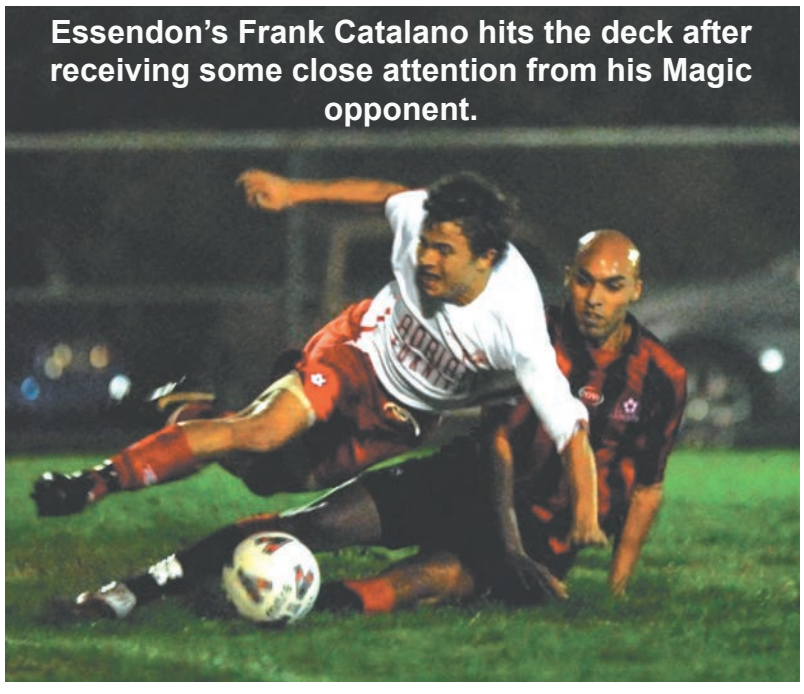
ROYALS: M.Sutalo, C.Anthopoulos, H.Vrbovak, L.Catalano (R.Catalano 85th), F.Catalano, M.Catalano, Y.Galanos (N.Ismail 61st), F.Lagana, N.Thomas, J. Youssef, H.D'Agostino.

Scramble in the Royals penalty area as Frank Catalano's effort appears goal-bound to pull one back against the Magic on Saturday night.



Magic's Sash Becvinovski celebrates his penalty which ultimately turned out to be the winner.

Essendon's Frank Catalano hits the deck after receiving some close attention from his Magic opponent.



SPRINGVALE WHITE EAGLES

1 - 2

HEIDELBERG UNITED

By George Stogiannou
Photos by George Stogiannou

EAGLES GROUNDED AS BERGERS FLY HIGHER

Heidelberg packs momentum making it three wins on the trot

Goals in each half to George Goutzioulis and Jim Drossos were enough to secure Heidelberg their third win on the trot in a come from behind 2-1 away victory over struggling Springvale White Eagles at Perry Road, Keysborough on Saturday night.

Both sides produced energetic performances and an entertaining match for the spectators on an excellent playing surface. The Eagles with new signing, Zia Younan marshalling the defence, made a determined start managing to thwart the early thrusts of a Berger side intent on imposing themselves on the game. Wide players for the Bergers, Sebastian Petrovich and Jim Drossos pushed forward early on and found themselves with chances.

The Eagles played with a new look central midfield which included Leo Trebbia and Anastasios Psonis. It was Trebbia who set up the first goal of the game in the 39th minute when his deep pass from inside his own half, picked out Igor Arsovski whose first time lay-off found young Eagles striker Goran Zoric.

Zoric's accurate first time shot, a low drive past Berger keeper Pasi Schwarzer's right hand, gave the home side hopes of taking a 1-0 lead into the break. But the Bergers were back on level terms in just five minutes when an unmarked Goutzioulis headed home a Nick Sabljak free kick.

Early in the second half, Eagles striker Nick Papadopoulos had a wonderful chance to restore the home side's lead when he collected a Psonis pass on his chest, got in behind the Bergers defense for a one on one with keeper Schwarzer. The striker tried to shoot across the keeper inside the far post, but his shot was inches wide of the target.

The winning goal for Heidelberg came in the 69 th minute after striker Nick Marinos won the ball out wide on the right flank. He passed to his strike partner Peter Kotsopoulos who ran at an exposed Eagles defense, then squared the ball to Drossos arriving from the left flank. Drossos struck an excellent first time shot past Eagles keeper Nick Roganovic. Eagles coach Zoran Trajceski tried to inject fresh legs into a flagging attack by introducing Caleb Nichols and overseas import Brian Murphy but the home side were unable to create further clear chances. It was the Bergers who could have scored more goals with both Marinos and Kotsopoulos having good chances in the closing stages.

Eagles coach Trajceski said afterwards, " The first goal, the defense gave too much respect to Nick Sabljak because he's excellent at free kicks. That's why our goalkeeper put two players on the post and four in the wall and no one was marking Goutzioulis. It was a bit of a lack of concentration and too much respect for Nick Sabljak."

"We played probably the best game we've played all season against a very experienced team. We had our chances especially at one-one. It's more psychological now. When it comes to winning a game, we're psychologically down…Zia Younan is a big signing for us. Hopefully in the next week we're going to pick up another two players and we're going to be a different team."

Heidelberg coach, Doug Hodgson said of his team's performance, " Overall, I think it would probably be our worst performance since I took charge. On a positive note, we created some good opportunities to put the ball into the back of the net, and on a normal day we probably could have." He expected a hard game and was happy to collect all three points. " I think that in the Premier League, there'll be no easy games. Maybe they rose to the occasion against us. They're a young side, quite quick and sharp. They'll probably take some points off other teams."

Man of the Match
George Goutzioulis
(Heidelberg United)

Jim Drossos grabbed the winner to hand Heidelberg three points on a day it didn't play so well.

SPRINGVALE WHITE EAGLES 1-2 HEIDLELBERG UTD. (HT 1-1) Saturday 5th May Serbian Sports Centre

GOALS: G.Zoric (SE) 40th min, G.Goutzoulis (HU) 45th min, J.Drossos (HU) 70th min

YELLOW CARDS: None
RED CARDS: None

SPRINGVALE WHITE EAGLES: N.Roganovic, Z.Younan, R.Duckworth, R.Sekulovski, L.Trebbia, A.Psonis (C.Nicholes 71st), V.Zoric, I.Arsovski, B.Bajic, G.Zovic, N.Papadopoulos (B.Murphy 85th).

HEIDELBERG UTD: P.Schwalger, D.Jones, R.Liparoti, P.Apolevski, T.Ouliaris, J.Drossos, S.Petrovic, P.Kotsopoulos (T.Papoutsis 92nd), N.Sabljak (A.Erhan 87th), G. Goutzioulis, N.Marinos (D.Prosimo 93rd).

MATCH REPORT

State League

KNOX HOLD ON TO NOTCH FIRST WIN

Knox City 1 Waverley Wanderers 0

For the first seventy minutes this game, spectators looking for a word to describe would have come up with boring, soporific or similar. Both sides failed to come to grips with the bumpy pitch, chances were few and far between and a nil all draw looked on the cards.

However the game sprang to life in the last 20 inutes, a bit of feeling crept in, yellow cards were dished out, the referee gave a red card to a substitute on the bench and Knox snatched the winner in the 87th minute.

The crowd waited for 30 minutes before the first chance came and went. Edgar latched on to a corner at the far post and dinked the ball over Kourtis into the middle of the goal but the Waverley defence managed to clear what looked like a certain goal. Waverley had a number of free kicks in good positions but failed to capitalise and while the visitors had more of the game territorially they did not put the Knox goal under any pressure.

Knox started the second half on the attack but the first danger came at the other end when Jorgensen had to go full length at Strapelias' feet to smother the chance. Strapelias was now starting to get more of the ball as he drifted wider to the left, but still the chances at both ends were sparse.

Then, in the 75th minute an altercation near the benches saw the referee red-card one of the Waverley substitutes and suddenly the game took on a different feel. A number of yellow cards were handed out for tackles and Kourtis made a sensational reflex save low to his left to deny Suat. The Waverley keeper followed this with another fine save shortly after.

With a draw looking odds on, Knox was awarded a free kick on the left. Nick Veljovic swung the bar to the far post where it fell invitingly for Hingett to volley home from close range.

Wanderer's striker Andrew Strapelias on the ball, prepares to take on Knox's Anthony Edgar.

Know held on to record their first win whilst remaining unbeaten, whilst Waverley lost their first game and conceded their first goal of the season.

Knox City: M. Jorgensen, G. Dos Santos, A. Edgar, D. Perazic, G. Moon (M. Mohmmadi -81st (M. Coates – 90th)), J. Hingert, N. Giannopoulos, H. Swami, D. Veljovic (L. Grubic – 56th), N. Veljovic, K.Suat . Subs not used – E. Becirovic, K. McEvoy.

Waverley Wanderers: J. Kourtis, P. Liapois, J. Nezos, P. Kapetanas, S. Zarokostas, R. Navarro, P. Pantelidis, Ni. Gidas)V. Daglis – 46th), L. Christou (P. Madondo – 46th), A. Strapelias, M. Panaghis (A. Gungordu – 76th). Subs not used – B. Roberts, P. Tsiotas.

Div Two SE

By Bruce Darnell

KINGSTON CITY

1 - 1

RICHMOND EAGLES

By Teo Pellizzeri
Photos by George Stogiannou

ROJAS RESCUES EAGLES

Late equaliser denies Kingston valuable win

An 89th minute Richmond equaliser from Alex Rojas salvaged the Eagles a one-all draw against Kingston City at Grange Reserve on Friday night.

Rojas hit a right footed shot from the top of the area, the ball curving inside the right hand post and around the desperate dive of Kingston goalkeeper Barry Andrews. Kingston had gone ahead just after the hour mark when Antun Vulic netted the opener, assisted by man-of-the-match Nick Tolios.

Despite an open and fast-paced game, chances were hard to come by early on. The only chance in the first 15 minutes a speculative lob from 30 yards by Tolios almost catching Robbie Simioni off his line, the Richmond goalkeeper having to backtrack and tip over the bar.

In the 27th minute Richmond's Marco Kuck pulled up with a hamstring injury when chasing a long ball, leaving George Papadopoulos an open run at the keeper. Papadopoulos however shot early, Simioni holding the ball up, then putting it out of play so Kuck could limp straight into the dressing rooms.
Stuart McClusky was his replacement.

In the 37th minute Henry Fa'arodo burst clear the right side of the box and sent a cross-shot through the penalty area. Daniel Visevic slid in at the near post, but despite happy memories of a double last time he visited Grange Reserve, the young attacking midfielder couldn't make contact with the ball.

The match stayed open after the half time break, with end-to-end football leading up to the hour mark. In the 46th minute Tolios stung Simioni's hands with a 30 yard drive from a free kick, the Richmond keeper then saving low to his left in the 48th minute after a shot from George Papadopoulos.

Richmond responded when Semir Sivic threaded through Daniel Visevic in the 50th minute, but Visevic's shot lacked power, and was held easily by Barry Andrews. In the 52nd minute Visevic was the man playing the ball through to Nick Kalambokis who shot from 14 yards. Andrews again proved himself equal to the shot, this time tipping the ball away as he closed the angle. The save proved crucial, as it was Kingston who ultimately grabbed the advantage at the end of the most action-packed period of the game.

In the 62nd minute Tolios played through Antun Vulic centrally, Robbie Simioni came off his line but failed to collect the ball as he went to ground, leaving Vulic to tap the opening goal into an empty net.

The game did close down considerably after the opening goal, but Richmond's late push was rewarded with Rojas' equaliser. Henry Fa'arodo found space in the third minute of stoppage time to look for an unlikely winner, but his shot from the top left hand corner of the penalty area was held by Andrews.

"We stuck to a pattern of play that was almost identical to last week" said Richmond coach Phil Stubbins – who revealed he was Adelaide United bound during the week..

"The pitch wasn't really conducive to playing that fast brand of football and getting the ball to Henry Fa'arodo's feet.

"We've got to grow as a group because we seem to be different every week.
Tonight we seemed to be waiting for the result to come.

"We don't really know the strength of the tear [to Marco Kuck's hamstring] at the moment. Hopefully it's only a two to three week tear but we'll assess that during the week. I think we've got depth and I think that was witnessed tonight, we'll stick with the boys we've got, but obviously with the transfer window open if a head pops up that we think will improve the squad we'll sign someone."

Kingston coach Dean Hennessey felt it was two points dropped for his team. "On the balance of play and the chances I thought we should have had the win" said Hennessey.

"If we'd won tonight we'd have gone fourth, and when I asked the players tonight how they felt they said they were gutted, and I thought that's good.
We've come a long way in a short period of time."

Man of the Match
Nick Tolios
(Kingston City)

KINGSTON CITY 1-1 RICHMOND (HT 0-0) Friday 4th May The Grange Reserve

GOALS: A.Vulic ((KC) 62nd min, A.Rojas (R) 89th min

YELLOW CARDS: D.Visevic (R) 35th min, D.Tsiaras (KC) 42nd min, S.McCluskey (R) 61st min, N.Bahnsen (R) 85th min, J.Latinpoulos (KC) 87th min, G.Papadopoulos (KC) 88th min, A.Rojas (R) 89th min,
RED CARDS: None

KINGSTON CITY: B.Andrews, M.Marrone, N.Tolios, A.Wilson, J.Latinpoulos, G.Papadopoulos, D.Tsiaras (A.Jankovski 79th), P.Brown, A.Vulic, P.Koutsoupias (N.Stamatiou 87th), F.O'Colman,

RICHMOND: R.Simioni, S.Burton, B.Beni, N.Bahnsen, S.Sivic, H.Fa'arodo, A.Rojas, D.Visevic (G.Hockless 71st), N.Kalambokis (X.Sulemani 71st), M.Kuck (S.McCluskey 29th), S.Rexhepi.

Alex Rojas snatched an 89th minute equaliser for the Eagles to earn a valuable away point.

Kingston City's Antun Vulic put the home side ahead after just over an hour played.

AIS

1 - 2

SOUTH MELBOURNE

By George Kouroumalis
Photos by Therese Duffy

SOUTH BACK TO WINNING WAYS

Blues take all 3 points from a spirited AIS outfit

South Melbourne have won their first game in almost two months, defeating a spirited AIS side at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday.

Playing as an away side on its home turf, South Melbourne welcomed back inspirational leader Tansel Baser into the lineup, who played his first game of the season.

Baser, who was aching to be part of the action even throughout the pre-game, came out and almost made an immediate impact in the second minute of play, when he released Caldwell into the area, only for the ex Melbourne Knights striker to hit the shot wide.

South continued to push forward at every opportunity and had another fantastic chance in the 7th minute to open the score. On this occasion Fernando was given the ball in space by Trent Waterson just outside the area, with the Brazilian striking a wicked drive wide of the target once again.

With the vocal crowd behind them, South continued to push forward in numbers, with the central defender and Wellington Phoenix-bound player Steven O'Dor playing a great cross into the path of Ricky Diaco. Diaco, who found himself with nobody around him, struck a header just wide of the keeper.

With South dominating the game completely by this point, it was only a matter of time before they put one into the back of the net and managed to do so in the 25th minute. After an inventive strike from outside the area by Fernando, the ball was parried by the keeper into the path of Arthur Tsonis, who tucked the ball into the open net.

In an unexpected twist and immediately from the resumption, a sweeping move by the young AIS outfit culminated in a superb run by youngster Matt Mullins, with the youngster bursting through the defence like a hot knife through butter and ramming the ball past the outstretched keeper.

South, despite conceding the goal, continued to push forward in the same manner as it had previously, with Ricky Diaco giving the AIS defence a headache, hitting two strikes inches wide in the 34 th and 41st minutes respectably.

Just before the break South got their one goal advantage back when a storming and creative run by winger Yusef Yusef bamboozled the defence, with the ex-Heidelberg player hitting his shot hard at the keeper's feet. To the disbelief of the waiting Caldwell, the keeper parried the ball into his path and with only one metre between him and the open net, he slotted the ball home.

Unlike the first half, the second half started off in a quite subdued manner, with no real opportunities falling to either side for the first 25 minutes, until a run and strike by Fernando from outside the area flew inches past the outside of the post and away for a goal kick.

In the 75th minute, South should have sealed the game, after a great bit of interplay between Fernando and Diaco saw the Brazilian hit another shot at goal, with the ball grazing the outside of the post.

In the 84th minute, the AIS almost equalised and snatched a point from the game, when some indecisive defensive work saw an opportunistic volley hit the bar and fly out for the goal kick and ultimately saw South Melbourne take all 3 points.

South Melbourne midfielder Yusef was relieved after the game to have taken all 3 points, saying that that "it wasn't our best game, but we are happy to take the 3 points. Credit to the AIS, they kept their defensive pressure up all match and could have snatched a point at the end."

South Melbourne now host Springvale next Sunday at Bob Jane Stadium, while the AIS will visit the Essendon Royals on Friday night at the Veneto Club.

AIS 1-2 SOUTH MELBOURNE (HT 1-2) Sunday 6th May Bob Jane Stadium

GOALS: A.Tsonis (SM) 26th min , M.Mullen (AIS) 27th min, N.Caldwell (SM) 44th min

YELLOW CARDS : N.Curtis (SM) 13th min
RED CARDS : None

AIS: T.Jerrad, S.Ryall, L.Devere, D.Mullen, (B.Obradovic 72nd), A.Cicak, (M. Jurman 62nd), J.Holland, A.Sunashy, M.Mullen, J.Brown, I.Cernak, (T.Minniecon 54th), M.Lujic

SOUTH MELBOURNE: M.Tosic, A.Tsonis, S.O'dor, T.Waterson, N.Caldwell, R.Diaco, D. Djulbic, F. De Moraes, T.Baser, N.Curtis,(R.Tavsancioglu 14th), Y.Yusuf (V.Natsioulas 65th)

Man of the Match:
Tansel Baser

South players celebrate in front of the Bob Jane faithful after Arthur Tsonis opened the scoring against the AIS.

PRESTON LIONS

1 - 1

WESTERN SUBURBS

By Nome Risteski
Photos by John Punshon

PRESTON THROW AWAY TWO POINTS

Suburbs gain valuable point, Lions drops out of Six

Preston had the lions' share of possession in the first half but as with Kingston the week before it did little with it where it counted.

Strong in defense and midfield Preston led Western Suburbs on a merry dance for most of the half, but just could not find the final pass or shot they needed to put the bal in the back of the net. Preston could have found themselves up 1-0 as early as the second minute when Sapazovski was presented the ball to his feet with his back to the Suburbs goal some 6 metres out, but his shot on the turn was off target and went out for a goalkick.

Tony Sterjovski was finding a lot of time and space on the left flank for Preston, and his intelligent running and crossing was causing all sorts of problems for the Suburbs defense. A foul on Sterjovski on one of his runs 10 minutes in gave Preston a chance just outside the penalty area, but Gasparis's shot was over the wall and goal.

Suburbs looked like an outfit that was out of its depth early on as Preston applied the pressure, and only some hasty defending by them kept the Lions out, and when the rare opportunity came for Suburbs to get forward past the half way line Les Anastasiou and his fellow defenders stopped them in their tracks.

It took 17 minutes for a meaningful Suburbs foray into Lions territory, but it all came to nothing as Preston cleared their lines making life a holiday for their keeper Acevski, who was left to shouting orders to his players in front of him.

19 minutes into the game Preston was dealt a blow when top scorer Blaze Georgievski was taken off ill, young Tolevski came in for him.

Preston surged forward every time they won the ball and Sterjovski was the main driving force behind this surge on the left flank, and on 24 minutes his cross was hastily cleared out for a corner which he took, the resultant clearance by Gal fell to the feet of Lions captain Sivevski but he put his shot wide of the goal for a goalkick.

Western Suburbs tried valiantly to get to grips with the game but thay couldn't hold possession of the ball for any amount of time to to put pressure on Preston who seemed comfortably in control, the only option left to them was taking pot shots at the Preston goal from distance.

Sapazovski was involved in number of moves for Preston and he would have expected better from Gasparis when his pass found him in the penalty area, but Gasparis put his effort wide of the goal for a goalkick.

Sterjovski again found some space on the left and his resultant cross to Pace in the Suburbs box promised much but Pace's first touch waspoor and left the chance go begging. It was Sterjovski's turn next when a Miskas found him with a neat through ball but his strong effort sailed over the bar.

Preston was applying the pressure relentlessly looking for the opening goal, and with only seconds left in the first half it was Miskas who shot on goal , but his deflected effort fell into the hands of Suburbs keeper Gal.

Within a minute or so after the start of the second half Gasparis was celebrating thinking he had scored the opnner for Preston, but the raised flag of the assistant referee stopped him in his tracks.

Suburbs had a rare opportunity of their own when former Lions player Cvetanovski shot on goal, but Acevski was not tested as Cvetanovks's weak effort went out wide for a goalkick.

Gasparis surged forward past his defender in the 58th minute down the right flank, with Sapazovski screaming for the ball on the far post Gasparis hit the ball low and hard to near post and only a save out of the top draw by Suburbs keeper Gal stopped the ball going into the back of the net and out for a corner.

Lozanovski then made a substitution which had the Preston fans up on their feet, Zoran Petrevski was coming in for his much belated debut having been injured since preseason in place of Tolevski who came on earlier in the first half for Georgievski.

Petrevski made an immediate impact on the game when almost with his first touch of the ball he finished of a move which was inspired by a wonderful run by Gasparis down the left flank.

Seconds later Sivevski the Preston captain who was having an outstanding game to date was fouled some 30 metres out from goal, his pass for Gasparis should have yeilded better results but his miscued effort sailed wide for a goalkick.Preston continued to attack, Pace sent in a great 30 metre pass for Sapazovski to chase but the number 10 for Preston was inches from the ball when Gal collected it.

Then in the 66th minute Sapazovski butchered what was possibly the best chance of the game when played in by Petrevski , Sapazovski from 6 metres out managed to belt the ball over the bar with only the keeper to beat.

Still not content with the single goal Preston went forward again when Sivevski sent Gasparis down the flank again, his cross was met in the penalty area acrobatically by Petrevski but his volley hit a Suburbs defender and out to safety.

Preston's corner count was well into double figures, Sterjovski sent in a corner from the right Gal managed to get a hand to it, it fell to Sivevski whose first time effort from 18 yards out sailed just over the bar.

Sterjovski although not as prominent in the second half as he was the first recieved a ball from Sivevski on the left, he easily went past his defender, looked up and saw Petrevski alone in the penalty area, he played a strong low ball towards, Petrevski dummied and the ball fell to Sapazovski some 8 metres out directly in front of goal, instead of putting the ball in the goal Sapazovski only managed to steered it out wide.

with only 5 minutes left Sivevski was brought down just outside the penalty area, with everybody expecting him to take the free kick, Anastasiou curled the ball over the wall and just wide of the left hand post.

All the missed chances came back to haunt the Lions when in the 85 minute Miskas brought down Khrapko against the run of play for a penalty which Khrapko himself converted.

In the dying minutes of the game an incident of the ball resulted in an animated discussion between referee Basic and his assistant which ended in Anastasiou getting his second red card of the season. A push and shove melee occured but by this stage the game was practically over and Western Suburbs had earned themselves a valuable point away from home on a day when they should have been soundly beaten.

Western Suburbs keeper Stephan Gal thwarts another attack by Preston on his goal.

PRESTON LIONS 1-1 WESTERN SUBURBS
(HT 0-0) Sunday 6th May
BT Connor Reserve

GOALS: I.Kraphor (WS) 89th min

YELLOW CARDS : N.Roma,(W. S) 39th min, Z.Cvetkovski,(W. S) 40th min, L.Rizzo, (WS) 90th min
RED CARDS: None

WESTERN SUBURBS: S.Gal, N.Roma, J.Stefaniou, (B.Radman 70th), T.Markovski, E.Cetkin, T.Antoniadis, Z.Cvetkovski, J.Cvetkovski, L.Rizzo, L.Kindtner, A.Maslic, (I.Khrapko 61st)

PRESTON LIONS: L.Acevski, L.Anastasiou, I.Erdogan, M.Gasparis, J.Sapazovski, T.Sterjovski, M.Miskas, S.Pace, P.Siveski, S.Masalkovski, B. Georgioski

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EXCLUSIVE
The Pignata Story

WHAT HAPPENED?

Pignata ally and recently retired FFV president Manny Galanos suggests that the Commissioners' way through Pignata was not an easy one. According to Galanos, Pignata would not succumb to Commissioner's ideas readily. "He would always ask questions, why, how, this and that…..Maybe some of the commissioners didn't appreciate that. Maybe some people would prefer to have a yes-person in place. Tony certainly wasn't a yes-man."

Galanos continues on a similar theme, " I think the fact that some of the commissioners were told not to meddle. Ah and some of the commissioners who stuck their fingers in the pie, were told to stick their fingers out of the pie. Tony was very forthcoming in those comments and rightfully so because that's not the role of the commission. That's the role of the CEO. And I think it would be fair to say that some of the commissioners didn't like that and probably took offence to it. He probably got a couple of the commissioners off-side, and I think they were very forthright in their comments to the chairman (Vasko Stojcevski) about Tony. I think they perhaps had an issue with Tony and they sort of perhaps expressed their opinion to the chairman and at the end of the day we had Tony's so-called resignation take place."

Did Pignata believe that such interference, or meddling as Galanos calls it, indicated a lack of confidence, on behalf of some of the Commissioners, in his own management skills? Or did he suspect that they harbored hidden agendas and interests? Or was it simply that Pignata believed that he knew better than those Commissioners what was required of FFV staff to perform their role effectively?

Pignata prided himself on having his finger on the pulse and knowing what the various stakeholders' interests and concerns were. When reflecting on his own leadership style, Pignata said he felt it was important that he be accessible to the stakeholders, open and honest in responding to their queries. He attended a number of games most weekends. " I wasn't going to sit in the office and make decisions. I went and spoke to fans, answered queries on the forum, when required and copped abuse when not…If people rang me or sent emails, I was very open and honest….So I'd like to think that people thought of me as honest and approachable. I don't think any other CEOs went out of their way as much as I did. That took a lot of personal time away from me at weekends…"

Several current FFV staff approached for this story, declined to be interviewed. One claimed that he didn't want to risk losing his job, as he and other staff had been asked to sign a confidentiality agreement.

Manny Galanos felt less constraint in speaking about Pignata's recent departure. When asked to comment on the speculation, Galanos replied, " Whether Tony resigned or not, I'll answer it this way. If someone resigns, they normally have another job to go to and they have another plan of action once they resign. As we speak at the moment, Tony hasn't got a job, he's looking for a job. So to me that doesn't seem to me, someone who has willingly resigned."
[Pignata has since taken up another appointment outside football.]

"Our corporate sponsors were extremely pleased with Tony's efforts, and it would be fair to say that when Tony took over the role of the CEO, we were on our hands and knees financially."

Tony presents FIFA referee Hakan Anaz with another award.

Galanos says, " It was a surprise to me because I, together with a number of other commissioners, believe he was doing an excellent job, because his record speaks for itself. Significant increase in sponsorship, a lot more credibility out in the market place.
He was a face that most people could relate to. Our corporate sponsors were extremely pleased with Tony's efforts, and it would be fair to say that when Tony took over the role of the CEO, we were on our hands and knees financially. Tony got us out of that situation and credit to him. And yes, you could argue there were certain things he did that maybe he shouldn't have done. Name me any CEO in the world, FIFA CEO or the AFL CEO, that you can't criticize. I mean everyone can be scrutinized to that extent but overall, I thought Tony was an exceptionally good CEO and I'd say there'd be a group of commissioners that would agree with me on that one. I'm really sorry he's left the sport because I think he was contributing in a positive manner. He wanted to raise the bar, wanted to see the game modernized, wanted to see the game move forward and he was cut off at the pass."

Galanos also believes Pignata recruited some excellent staff to work with him at the FFV.
" A reflection of how good your CEO is ,is how good are the people he employs, and Tony employed some exceptionally talented people. So whilst Tony was CEO, Eric Hollingsworth, Zappone, just to mention a few, were employed. They have proven very good appointments." [Zappone has since resigned and left the organization.]

Galanos also describes Pignata as a progressive CEO. " Tony brought a lot of initiatives to the commission and most or some of us thought they were fantastic innovations." Galanos mentions as examples, the AIS team coming into the Premier League competition in 2007, the new V-League which he says Pignata was very passionate about. According to Galanos, Pignata was also a strong advocate for the name and logo change from the old VSF to the FFV.

So if Pignata was such an effective CEO, with obvious enthusiasm for the game and its progress, why did he depart?
Although Galanos declined to discuss the details of what he believes took place, his comments indicate that Pignata's relationship with some of the commissioners was a major factor in his departure.

"It's not a good story. I really feel sorry for Tony because he's a victim of circumstances. He's someone who really wanted to take the game forward who was cut off, because he said, ' Hey it's not your business to come into the office telling me what to do with my staff. Email me, ring me up to tell me. Don't talk to my staff.' And they didn't like it…"

At the time of this interview Pignata wanted to go on record as saying, "Despite the difficulties, I've got no ill-feeling against anyone. I love my job, and I loved working there. I got along well with all board members. Yes we had disagreements but that's the way forward…."

Does he feel like a "victim of circumstances", or that he was " cut off" as Galanos puts it.
Pignata responds, "Would I still like to be there? Under different circumstances perhaps, but at the moment I've made my decision to resign and pursue other interests. I'll still go to games. But I don't feel sorry for myself.. Look, I had a great time in my two years at the Federation, together with the executive team I put into place, we achieved a lot. I think a lot of people don't realize that the board worked tirelessly for the game as well."

Goal! Weekly contacted FFV Chairman Vasko Stojcevski for this story but he declined to comment saying, " I've got no comment whatsoever to make on this story. It's long gone, done and dusted and we've moved on."

Chairing the historic meeting which unanimously voted for the name change from VSF to FFV with Manny Galanos and George Wallace at FFV headquarters in Northcote in 2005,

By George Stogiannou

THE PIGNATA STORY:

Those watching the goings on at the FFV prior to Christmas could've been excused for thinking they were watching an episode of the Twilight Zone, such was the mystery surrounding CEO Tony Pignata's departure from the FFV.

Imagine you're riding a bus, traveling along a familiar route with a familiar driver at the wheel, when all of a sudden you notice the bus picking up speed, passing through an unfamiliar landscape. Some of the passengers are excited, if a little nervous. A couple of other passengers are so alarmed, they ask for the bus to turn back. All of a sudden, without prior warning, the driver vanishes without a trace. Soon afterwards, the bus makes a U-turn and heads back in the direction from which it came.

In the lead up to Christmas, the FFV announced a flurry of radical changes to its Premier League competition, with the CEO seemingly in the driver's seat.

And then, on Thursday afternoon, the 21st December, the FFV issued a media release announcing the immediate resignation of the CEO.

No farewell, nor expression of regret at his departure. No list of Pignata's achievements during his two year spell as CEO, nor any explanation for the resignation. The news release ended abruptly with the statement, 'FFV will make no further comment on this matter.'

The timing of the announcement on the eve of Christmas breakup, added further to the impression that the FFV were determined to say as little as possible on the matter.

The silence only served to fuel rumors that he'd been sacked, or that the decision to resign was forced upon him. The same Media release announced that George Angelopoulos would act as CEO until the board appointed a new CEO. A month later, the advertisement for the new CEO appeared and prompted Pignata to agree to an interview which took place in a suburban café.

The former CEO appeared remarkably relaxed, sunglasses perched on top of his head, sporting a tan and a holiday growth on his face. He looked as though he was enjoying a relaxing break.

He began by explaining his departure from the FFV. " There came a time for me to make a decision on what I wanted to do. And I thought just before Christmas was an opportune time for me to move on and resign. It came suddenly after I'd had a good chat with Vasko Stojcevski (FFV Chairman) and felt that I was getting a little bit frustrated in some of the commission decisions. We agreed to disagree and decided to leave the organization and start a new venture. And that's basically how it came about."

In October 2004, the FFV board appointed Pignata on a two year contract, and after a year, they thought well enough of his performance to extend his contract to October 2008. "When I had my recent chat with Vasko, I knew I had a contract. And we both agreed to terminate it and for me to move on.

Former FFV CEO, Tony Pignata, presents Richmond's Daniel Visevic with the 2006 U21 Player of the Year Award.

There was a mutual decision. Nothing sinister." According to Pignata, one of the commission's decisions that particularly irked him was the board's decision to, in effect, refuse a detailed plan to improve elite development. As he explained ,Victoria hasn't won a Championship for many years. Nor has it produced the next Viduka, Bresciano or Grella.

Pignata said, " Webrought on Eric (Hollingsworth, Head of Elite Development) who's a very, very good operator, and Eric wrote a very detailed plan which involved the reintroduction of a single super league competition. And a couple of the commissioners scuttle butted that."

Pignata admits the refusal was disappointing. Whether he took it personally and felt that some of the commissioners were not giving him and his staff the confidence he felt they deserved is unclear, but as he goes on to explain, interference from the boardroom was a factor, that he believes, made the job " the most frustrating"in sport.

" You find that for most big corporations, the CEO and management team run the business. Any policies that are required that impact the whole business, the board will decide. Day to day running of the business should be left to the CEO and the management team at the Federation. And I think that was one of the most frustrating things I had."

He adds, "The staff at the Federation are very good. Contrary to what a lot of people think, they're a very dedicated team who know and have been in the game for a long period of time. They know what needs to be done and the board should allow staff to get things done. I believe we were all on the right track. I think it's fine that the new CEO, whether a he or a she, has I suppose, not the freedom, but be in the position that allows he or she to do what they think needs to be done. And bring things up to the board when required. But day to day management issues, should be dealt with by the CEO, not the board."

"If someone resigns, they normally have another job to go to and they have another plan of action once they resign".

Implicit in Pignata's comments is the suggestion that some of the board members attempted to direct FFV staff in how they should be carrying out day to day operations.

If this is true, it begs the question why they would do this without first going through Pignata. It's possible that some of the board members were becoming frustrated with Pignata's way of handling their proposals and decided it would be easier to bypass him.

Former FFV CEO, Tony Pignata, presents Socceroo Marco Bresciano with the State team guernsey.

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ROUND 9

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS Vs SUNSHINE GEORGIES

By Richard Bartolo
Photos by Daniel Flis

SHOWDOWN AT EPPING

Both sides eager to go "back to back"

KO 8.15pm Tonight at Epping Stadium

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Zebras and Georgies will conclude Round 9 of the Foxtel Cup, at Epping Stadium on Monday night. Both teams are coming off good wins from last week and they will be looking of improving their position after tonight's clash.

The Zebras so far, have not had an impressive start to the season and they will be looking towards tonight's game as a MUST win situation, not only to step away from the relegation zone, or ease the pressure off coach Michael Mickalakopoulos, but this win will lift the moral of the team which at times seems it's below par and with the team facing the next five crucial games against Heidelberg (A) South Melbourne (H) Essendon Royals (A) Cavaliers (H) and League leaders Oakleigh Cannons (A) this is a must win, to get their season back on track.

The Georgies on the other hand have had a mixed season so far, with only two wins against the Blues and the Eagles last week. They have been impressive on the park so far, this year though, where they could have had a couple or more wins on the board, only if the concentration was there for the whole 90minutes. The Georgies had the Cannons, Royals and the Knights close to defeats but credit to the three teams they took a point of the Georgies. So the Georgies could mix it with the best also.

Hamlet Armenian seems to be the main threat for the opposition, so far he has collected two goals for the Zebras. You also have the hard running Steve Martin which at times could be dangerous up forward with either his deep crosses or his powerful shots on goal, which last week's goal was a prime example. In the middle of the park the consistency needs to be remained during the duration of the game. It has not clicked yet for the Zebras, the passing game that they play seems good until the last pass, which does get cut off very easily. Players such as Kosic and Vassiliadis need to be more creative in the middle and support the forwards. The defence led by Angelovski have conceded 11 goals so far and needs to be at its best against the Georgies. The signs are there for the Zebras, it's a matter of time or when the team will start producing results. With the transfer market open now, the Zebras so far have not brought in any one thus far, it's only a matter of time you would suppose.

On the other hand the visitors seem a more settled side, with the inclusion of new signing Reg Davani signed from Auckland City FC, and the already settled Anthony Maganacca, Jonas Salley, Alfonso Opazo and company, the Georgies look for improvement. But the question still remains for the Georgies, only IF we cleared the ball we would have won. The Georgies have the same problem as the Zebras, letting in unnecessary goals or the defence puts itself under pressure for no reason and cops that odd goal which at times is costly for the side, as the Georgies found out. The goals against for these two sides are identical, with both sides conceding 11 goals.

Sunshine on the other hand play good attractive soccer, they move the ball pretty well around the park and they also use the length and open spaces, which at times they put great pressure on the opposition, maybe Epping Stadium will suit them. They have the likes of Magnacca, Opazo, Trpcevski and Greechan, whom are not afraid to have a go at the oppositions defence or a crack on goals. Both keepers are well known for their capability, but tonight they need to be alert at all times, as this game is important for both teams, as said, they are chasing three vital points.

Both coaches Michael and Joe will have their respective sides well pumped up, they know the importance of this game, and with both sides facing great challenges in the coming weeks, these three points are vital.

My prediction, Zebras 1-2 Georgies.

	Zebras	Sunshine G
Recent form		
HOME	L•D•D	W•D•D•L
AWAY	W•L•L•L	L•W•D•D

Next info is based on last 50 matches

Home win	0%	37%
Home draw	67%	37%
Home lost	33%	27%
Home goals 1 per match		1.4 per match
Away win	40%	17%
Away draw	0%	17%
Away lost	60%	67%
Away goals 0.6 per match		0.87 per match

THE LIKELY LADS...

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS
Ross Antoniadis, John Angelovski, Hamlet Armenian, Tony Alessandrino, Artjoms Butorins, Billy Celeski, Dario Di Napoli, Ari Drakos, Stelios Drakos, Adam Fedljevic, Kyriakos Gerihristodoulou, Josip Kozic, Greg Lombardo, Steve Martin, Mark McGough, Dean Piemonte, Luca Santilli, Rob Santilli, James Sherman, Eric Vassiliadis.

SUNSHINE GEORGIES FC
Martin John, Stanko Zilic, Colin Azzopardi, Alfonzo Opazo, Jonas Salley, Christopher Greechan, Nick Kalmar, Kamer Simsek, Vasko Trpcevski, Anthony Magnacca, Ralph Napoli, Jonathon Falzon, Adam gauci-Seddon, Ilia Tsoumerkas (injured), Eduardo Soares, Brett Gilmour (injured).

Sunshine's Chris Greechan grabbed the winner last weekend against the White Eagles and will be looking to repeat the dose tonight over the Zebras.

Zebras did well last week to win on the road at Western Suburbs, but have yet to break the duck at home.

FAWKNER BLUES 1 - 0 GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

NO LUCK, NO JOY FOR CAVALIERS AT FAWKNER

Blues climb to Top Six contention

By Markian Jawolsky
Photos by Daniel Flis

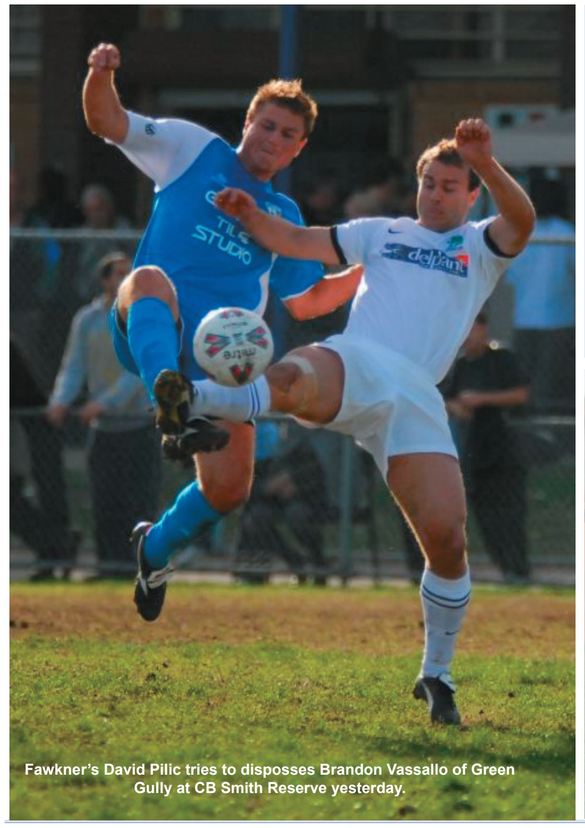
The Cavaliers ran out of luck at CB Smith Reserve against the Fawkner Blues. The woodwork and Steven Tilovski, time after time, denied Gully a goal whilst Fawkner's Ricky Chillico's effort on goal was ruled just over the line.

Green Gully dominated the first half of play, Campbell Banks was first denied by the post and then by Fawkner goalkeeper Steven Tilovski in a one-on-one situation. Just before the close of the half, Jeffrey Fleming managed to beat both Tilovski and the post with a low shot on goal, but the ball went just wide of the goal.

In the second half, Luciano Trani must have given his players a rocket as the Blues looked a brand new team out on the bumpy Fawkner pitch. Making a nuisance of himself all game was Ricky Chillico, and in the 50th minute it was Chillico who scrambled the ball over the line from a corner kick. Gully Keeper Ante Loncaric got his hands to the ball to clear the effort, but the referee and linesman signalled a goal to Fawkner.

Gully coach Ian Dobson used all three subtitutes after the Fawkner goal, and although Gully managed a few strikes on Fawkner's goal the game remained in Fawkner's favour. Prior to Fawkner's goal, the Blues did have a goal disallowed for offside, but it was Gully who were left with the task of creating most of the attacking play. Virtually on the fulltime whistle, the Cavaliers knew it wasn't their day, when substitute Joel Nikolic's strike on goal, hit the Fawkner post and bounced away to Fawkner's safety.

In the under 21's, no goals were scored at either end of the pitch, final score 0-0.



Fawkner's David Pilic tries to disposses Brandon Vassallo of Green Gully at CB Smith Reserve yesterday.

FAWKNER BLUES 1-0 GREEN GULLY
(HT 0-0) Sunday 6th May CB Smith Reserve

GOALS: R.Chillico (FB) 71st min

YELLOW CARDS : R.Chillico (FB) 32nd min, A.Branov (FB) 47th min, S.Tilovski (FB) 75th min , A.Vargas (GG) 85th min
RED CARDS : None

FAWKNER BLUES: S.Tilovski, M.Bosevski, C. Recchia, D. Rocco, (A.Branov 45th), M.Tsiorlas, R.Chillico, M.Vazzocchi, (M.Alibeyi 62nd), B.Sighund, D.Pilic, E.Karavitis, (J.Principato 83rd)

GREEN GULLY: A.Loncaric, K.Ivesic,(M.Sanders 62nd), S.Camilleri,(E.Pena 78th), J.Fleming, B.Vassalo, C.Banks, (J.Nikolic 75th), E.Muscat, R.Ollerton, D.Nastevski, M.Medjedovic, A.Vargas

Green Gully's Andy Vargas skips past the outstretched legs of a Fawkner Blues player.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 - 0 OAKLEIGH CANNONS

CANNONS LET LEADERSHIP SLIP

Late show seals points for Knights

By Josip Loncaric
Photos by Steve Starek

Another match of contrasting halves, which has become a feature of matches at Knights Stadium, saw the home side produce one of their best all-round performances of the season.

The home side went into the match without Alex Kiratzoglou and Dario Matkovic, who were both missing through injury. For the visitors from Oakleigh, attacking midfielder Anthony Pelikan was missing, leaving Stuart Munro's side lacking a creative force in the final third.

Initially at least, this didn't make an impact on the visitor's style of play, as they made the Knights sweat early on. The Cannons began brightly with an early cross from the right flank finding Juan Nilo after two minutes. The livewire striker's header at the back post was saved well by Adrian Cagalj.

A less threatening reply by the Knights saw Craig Elvin headed layoff to Ivan Franjic, whose left foot shot failed to trouble Michael Turnbull in the Cannons goal.

The Knights had a good opportunity in the 34th minute Hrvoje Matkovic corner headed towards goal by Ivan Franjic but cleared off the line by Sam Poutakidis.

Two minutes later, the Knights produced the best chance of the first half. A loose ball allowed Craig Elvin a half volley, which was miraculously saved by Michael Turnbull to keep the score's level.

This was the last meaningful action of the first half, as both defences looked solid in the first 45 minutes.

The second half saw much of the same from both sides, with next to no chances created in the first 15 minutes of the half.

A powerful run and cross by Joe Spiteri in the 60th minute should have ended in a goal but none of his team mates could latch onto the ball.

With the game heading towards a stalemate, young attacking midfielder Mate Dugandzic broke the deadlock in the 74th minute. Some lazy defending by the Cannons allowed the substitute an opportunity to shoot, and after a Michael Turnbull slip, Dugandzic saw his effort trickle in for a priceless goal.

The Cannons responded with a free kick by Michael Panopoulos, which failed to trouble Cagalj in the Knights goal.

A brilliant left-foot effort by Ivan Franjic nearly killed off the match, but Turnbull pulled off another outstanding save to deny the 19-year old midfielder in the 90th minute.

Oakleigh threw numbers forward in the final few minutes but failed to trouble the excellent Knights defence led by captain Tom Milardovic, impressive full back Matthew Grbesa and arguably the best player on the park, Neven Antic. The 23-year old defender kept dangerous Cannons striker Esala Masi out of the game, and did equally well on pacey attacker Juan Nilo when marking him.

For the Cannons, a lack of drive and perhaps fitness in the final third of the match will certainly be cause for concern for Stuart Munro's side, whilst Knights coach Chris Taylor will be happy with a positive response by his side after last weeks loss.

Man of the Match:
Neven Antic
(Melbourne Knights)

Cannon's striker Esala Masi flies high against the Knights yesterday, but was unable to help his team avoid a second consecutive loss.

Oakleigh's new signing former A League star Michael Turnbull makes his debut and punches clear a Knights attack

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1-0 OAKLEIGH CANNONS
(HT 0-0) Sunday 6th May Knights Stadium

GOALS: M.Dugandzic (MK) 76th min

YELLOW CARDS: M.Panopoulos (OC) 22nd min, J.Spiteri (MK) 50th min, S.Poutakidis (OC) 80th min
RED CARDS: None

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: A.Cagalj, S. Iosofidis, (I.Waldon 53rd), T.Milardovic, S. Piorkowski, M.Grbesa, J.Spiteri, H.Matkovic,(T.Razov 81st), N. Antic, C.Elvin, S.Oksoz,(M.Dugandzic 71st), I.Franjic

OAKLEIGH CANNONS: M.Turnbull, A.Ewin ,(A.Kovacic 76th), M.Stergiopoulos, S.Laurie, F.Rosman, S.Macnicol, (V.Toma 81st), M.Panopoulos, J.Nilo,(P.Cardozo 71st) E.Masi, B.Damianos, S.Poutakidis

LANGY MADE TO "WAITE" FOR DERBY WIN AGAINST PINES

Nick Waite has propelled the Frankston Pines to a hard-fought 1-0 win over local rivals Langwarrin in Saturday's Round Four blockbuster match at Monterey Reserve. The game had been billed pre-game as a "Mornington Derby", but what it lacked in goals, it made up for in defensive desperation. Both the Pines and Langwarrin defended superbly, and the match looked headed for a draw until Waite fired the ball into the back of the net in the second half.

Certainly not short on goals was the Casey Comets versus Brunswick City match at Comets Stadium, where the Comets' notched up their maiden win in State League One with their 4-1 victory. Doubles from Anthony Ciccarelli and Fikret Korkaric provided plenty of firepower to overcome City, who had not lost a game this season prior to this match. Only Ryan O'Hare could muster up any sort of resistance, scoring City's only goal.

Although one goal was all it took for the top-of-the-table St. Albans Saints in their clash with Dandenong Thunder at George Andrews Reserve on Saturday night. The Saints prevailed 1-0 thanks to a Steven Jovanovski brace which came late in the match to break the hearts of the Thunder and their supporters.

Fellow equal-ladder leader Coburg United also kept pace with the Saints with a 1-0 win at Knights Stadium in Saturday night's match against the Southern Stars. Mustafa Mustafa again proved the difference for United with his first-half goal allowing Coburg to sit back and keep the constant Stars' attacks at bay.

Meanwhile, North Geelong have finally snapped their losing streak, easily dispatching of the now bottom team Port Melbourne Sharks at Elcho Park on Saturday afternoon. The home crowd were treated to a fine display of individual brilliance from Adrian Cervinski who, in his opening game of the season no less, scored a hat-trick to show the Warriors what they'd been missing for the first three rounds. Balint Arndt managed a consolation goal for the Sharks after half-time, but they never threatened to take the game from North Geelong. The win marks the first time this season that the Warriors have managed to break through a team's defence to open the team's goal scoring account.

Neither Bentleigh Greens nor Westgate managed to trouble the score sheet in Sunday's clash at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex. Both teams defended dourly although both Westgate's Alexsandar Jovicic and Clifford Tuck from the Greens came close to scoring on several occasions, in an otherwise unremarkable match.

Hopefully, next week's Round Five will provide some more free-flowing attacking football than a couple of this week's more defence oriented games. It will be interesting to note whether Brunswick City will be able to bounce back from this week's loss to hand Coburg their first loss of the season in a clash of two of the more attacking units in the league at Dunstan Reserve. Dandenong Thunder against Bentleigh Greens should also provide a fine spectacle as Bentleigh will need to be on top of their game defensively if they are to prevent the Thunder from running away with the game as they did against Westgate 5-1 two weeks ago. But make sure to keep a close eye on the form of Adrian Cervinski of North Geelong as he try's to back up on his hat-trick to lift North Geelong out of the bottom two against Langwarrin in Sunday afternoon's match at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex. The result could be extremely decisive come the end of the season if early season results are anything to judge by.

By Jeremy O'Neill

Photos by Daryl Kennedy

Pines stalwart Nick Waite in action during the local Peninsula Derby.

ROUND FIVE FIXTURES

Port Melbourne v Casey Comets
JL Murphy Reserve - SS Anderson Oval
11 May 07 8:30PM

Southern Stars v St. Albans Saints
Ross Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM

Brunswick City v Coburg Utd
Dunstan Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM

Langwarrin v North Geelong Warriors
Lawton Park Reserve12 May 07 3:00PM

Westgate v Frankston Pines
Ardeer Reserve12 May 07 7:00PM

Bentleigh Greens v Dand Thunder
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
13 May 07 3:00PM

DIVISION ONE RESULTS

Frankston Pines 1 (N Waite) Langwarrin 0 (HT: 0-0), North Geelong Warriors 3 (A Cervinski 3) Port Melbourne 1 (BG Arndt) (HT: 2-0), Casey Comets 4 (A Ciccarelli 2, F Korkaric 2) Brunswick City 1 (R O'Hare) (HT: -), Dandenong Thunder 0 St. Albans Saints 1 (S Jovanovski) (HT: 0-0), Coburg Utd 1 (M Mustafa) Southern Stars 0 (HT: 1-0), Bentleigh Greens 0 Westgate 0 (HT: 0-0)(HT: 1-0)

RESERVE DETAILS

Frankston Pines 0 Langwarrin 2 (HT: -), North Geelong Warriors 4 Port Melbourne 0 (HT: -), Casey Comets 2 Brunswick City 0 (HT: -), Dandenong Thunder 1 St. Albans Saints 2 (HT: -), Coburg Utd 2 Southern Stars 0 (HT: -), Bentleigh Greens 0 Westgate 0 (HT: -)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Coburg Utd	4	4	0	0	14	1	12
Langwarrin	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
St. Albans Saints	4	3	0	1	11	4	9
Brunswick City	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Casey Comets	4	2	0	2	4	9	6
North Geelong Warriors	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Bentleigh Greens	3	1	1	1	2	5	4
Frankston Pines	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Dandenong Thunder	3	1	0	2	2	6	3
Westgate	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Southern Stars	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
Port Melbourne	3	0	0	3	0	7	0

DIVISION ONE STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
St. Albans Saints	4	3	1	0	8	3	10
Coburg Utd	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
Frankston Pines	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Brunswick City	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Casey Comets	4	1	1	2	6	5	4
Southern Stars	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
Bentleigh Greens	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
Westgate	3	1	1	1	2	5	4
Dandenong Thunder	3	1	0	2	5	4	3
Langwarrin	3	1	0	2	1	2	3
North Geelong Warriors	4	1	0	3	3	8	3
Port Melbourne	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

ROUND FOUR

NORTH WEST 2

Seniors

Sunbury Utd 0 Pascoe Vale 2 (T Gavran, DA Genovesi) (HT: 0-1), Werribee City 1 (S Panebianco) Maribyrnong Greens 1 (A Redzepovic) (HT: 0-1), Williamstown 3 (J Groba, B Pajic, V Babic) Thomastown Devils 1 (A Garisto) (HT: 1-0), Yarraville Glory 0 Keilor Park 1 (V Zafferano) (HT: 0-0), Moreland City 0 Altona East Phoenix 0 (HT: 0-0), Altona City 1 (J Little) Lalor Utd 1 (V Donev) (HT: 1-1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keilor Park	4	3	1	0	6	1	10
Williamstown	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
Pascoe Vale	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Sunbury Utd	4	2	0	2	7	8	6
Altona East Phoenix	4	1	2	1	4	1	5
Altona City	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Werribee City	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Moreland City	4	1	2	1	4	5	5
Maribyrnong Greens	3	0	2	1	4	6	2
Lalor Utd	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
Yarraville Glory	3	0	0	3	0	5	0
Thomastown Devils	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

Reserves

Sunbury Utd 1 Pascoe Vale 1, Werribee City 3 Maribyrnong Greens 1, Williamstown 0 Thomastown Devils 2, Yarraville Glory 2 Keilor Park 4, Moreland City 3 Altona East Phoenix 1, Altona City 1 Lalor Utd 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moreland City	4	3	1	0	11	2	10
Thomastown Devils	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
Altona City	4	2	2	0	7	1	8
Pascoe Vale	3	2	1	0	6	4	7
Werribee City	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Keilor Park	4	2	0	2	7	9	6
Altona East Phoenix	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Lalor Utd	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
Maribyrnong Greens	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Sunbury Utd	4	0	2	2	4	6	2
Yarraville Glory	3	0	0	3	4	10	0
Williamstown	4	0	0	4	0	8	0

SOUTH EAST 2

Seniors

Doncaster Rovers 1 (G McAleer) Northcote City 1 (A Rauf (Samad)) (HT: 1-1), Stonnington City 4 (J D'Arcy, O Mejias 3) Templestowe Eagles 2 (M De Filippo, M Pipertzis) (HT: 2-1), Chelsea 1 (T Grskovic) Heatherton Utd 0 (HT: 0-0), Knox City 1 (J Hingert) Waverley Wanderers 0 (HT: 0-0), Diamond Valley Utd 4 (O Simsek, S Laing, A Giuliano, O Kara) FC Clifton Hill 2 (G Kotsiris, BE Harbinson) (HT: 2-1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Diamond Valley Utd	4	3	1	0	11	4	10
Doncaster Rovers	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
Knox City	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Stonnington City	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
FC Clifton Hill	4	1	2	1	8	9	5
Northcote City	4	1	2	1	4	6	5
Heatherton Utd	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Waverley Wanderers	3	1	1	1	2	1	4
South Springvale	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Chelsea	4	1	0	3	2	6	3
Templestowe Eagles	3	0	1	2	6	10	1
North Caulfield	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Reserves

Doncaster Rovers 3 Northcote City 2, Stonnington City 1 Templestowe Eagles 3, Chelsea 3 Heatherton Utd 1, Knox City 1 Waverley Wanderers 0, Diamond Valley Utd 0 FC Clifton Hill 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Doncaster Rovers	4	3	1	0	15	6	10
FC Clifton Hill	4	2	1	1	9	4	7
Knox City	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Templestowe Eagles	3	2	0	1	8	5	6
Chelsea	4	1	3	0	6	4	6
Heatherton Utd	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Northcote City	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Diamond Valley Utd	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Stonnington City	4	1	0	3	6	13	3
Waverley Wanderers	3	0	1	2	2	4	1
South Springvale	2	0	0	2	4	9	0
North Caulfield	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

NORTH WEST 3

Seniors

Geelong 5 (S Kanapathy 2, S Gaitanis, R Clayson, A Longo) Corio 2 (C Rakic 2) (HT: 2-1), Lalor 0 Banyule City 0 (HT: 0-0), Sydenham Park 3 (G Petrovski, P Williams, D Lisolajski) Westvale 0 (HT: 0-0), Cairnlea 2 (S Sozer, E Koc) Plenty Valley Lions 1 (S Flaherty) (HT: 1-0), La Trobe University 1 (D Mitric) Avondale Heights 3 (A Cristiano 2, RA Carchedi) (HT: 1-0), Geelong Rangers 2 (T Hardy 2) Ballarat Red Devils 0 (HT: 2-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Avondale Heights	3	2	1	0	9	2	7
Geelong	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Geelong Rangers	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Cairnlea	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
La Trobe University	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Banyule City	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
Lalor	3	0	3	0	1	1	3
Sydenham Park	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Ballarat Red Devils	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Westvale	3	0	2	1	0	3	2
Plenty Valley Lions	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Corio	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

Reserves

Geelong 4 Corio 1, Lalor 2 Banyule City 0, Sydenham Park 0 Westvale 2, Cairnlea 1 Plenty Valley Lions 2, La Trobe University 0 Avondale Heights 2, Geelong Rangers 1 Ballarat Red Devils 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
La Trobe University	4	3	0	1	11	4	9
Geelong	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Lalor	3	3	0	0	6	0	9
Cairnlea	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Avondale Heights	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Sydenham Park	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Plenty Valley Lions	3	1	1	1	5	7	4
Ballarat Red Devils	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Westvale	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Banyule City	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Geelong Rangers	4	0	1	3	4	12	1
Corio	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

SOUTH EAST 3

Seniors

Frankston Strikers 2 (J Donaghy, SA O'Donnell) Eastern Lions 0 (HT: 1-0), Springvale City 0 Sandringham City 2 (M Cook, D Kinsella) (HT: 0-0), Southern Suburbs 0 Endeavour Utd 1 (J Castel) (HT: 0-0), Morwell Pegasus 1 (A NILO) Doveton 3 (G Bristow, L Buhic 2) (HT: 0-2), Mooroolbark 2 (L House, J Otto) Fitzroy City 0 (HT: 0-0), Berwick City 0 Nunawading City 2 (C Bullock, R McKay) (HT: 0-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Doveton	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Mooroolbark	4	3	0	1	5	4	9
Nunawading City	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Southern Suburbs	4	2	0	2	6	3	6
Endeavour Utd	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Frankston Strikers	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Sandringham City	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Eastern Lions	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Berwick City	4	1	0	3	5	7	3
Springvale City	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Morwell Pegasus	3	0	0	3	2	7	0
Fitzroy City	3	0	0	3	1	9	0

Reserves

Frankston Strikers 3 Eastern Lions 1, Springvale City 1 Sandringham City 3, Southern Suburbs 0 Endeavour Utd 0, Morwell Pegasus 0 Doveton 2, Mooroolbark 1 Fitzroy City 4, Berwick City 1 Nunawading City 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Southern Suburbs	4	2	2	0	5	3	8
Mooroolbark	4	2	1	1	5	6	7
Sandringham City	3	2	0	1	8	6	6
Eastern Lions	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Endeavour Utd	3	1	2	0	5	0	5
Fitzroy City	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
Berwick City	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
Springvale City	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Doveton	4	1	0	3	4	5	3
Morwell Pegasus	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Frankston Strikers	3	1	0	2	4	10	3
Nunawading City	3	0	2	1	3	4	2

PROVI 1 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Melbourne City 2 (M Paz) South Yarra 3 (M White, PA Mccluskey, NJ Ash) (HT: 0-2), Elwood City 3 (D Pollard, E Ozyurek) Hume Utd 1 (E Ergin) (HT: 0-0), West Preston 0 Darebin Utd 0 (HT: 0-0), Laverton Park 2 (V De La Plaza, J Marambio) North Sunshine Eagles 1 (A Isai) (HT: 1-0), Melbourne University Rangers 0 Glenroy 0 (HT: 0-0), Western Eagles 2 (I Pajic, K Leski) Hoppers Crossing 0 (HT: 2-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Laverton Park	4	3	1	0	8	4	10
Hume Utd	4	2	1	1	10	7	7
Hoppers Crossing	3	2	0	1	3	3	6
Glenroy	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Melbourne Uni Rangers	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Darebin Utd	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
North Sunshine Eagles	3	1	0	2	8	6	3
Melbourne City	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Elwood City	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
South Yarra	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Western Eagles	3	1	0	2	4	9	3
West Preston	3	0	2	1	2	3	2

Reserves

Melbourne City 0 South Yarra 2, Elwood City 0 Hume Utd 2, West Preston 2 Darebin Utd 1, Laverton Park 2 North Sunshine Eagles 0, Melbourne University Rangers 1 Glenroy 0, Western Eagles 0 Hoppers Crossing 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Melbourne Uni Rangers	3	3	0	0	6	0	9
South Yarra	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
West Preston	3	2	1	0	6	4	7
Hume Utd	4	2	0	2	7	7	6
Darebin Utd	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Laverton Park	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Hoppers Crossing	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Melbourne City	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
North Sunshine Eagles	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Elwood City	3	0	2	1	0	2	2
Glenroy	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Western Eagles	3	0	1	2	1	4	1

PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Croydon City Arrows 0 Lyndale Utd 0 (HT: 0-0), Rowville Eagles 2 (P Maghiar, A Sabau) Old Melburnians 2 (A Pattison, J O'Doherty) (HT: 2-1), Noble Park Utd 3 (M Durand 3) White Star Dandenong 2 (A Szlawski, K Szwed) (HT: 1-2), Monash University 1 (A Salmon) Riversdale 3 (C Priftis, B Christakakis, A Christakakis) (HT: 0-2), Warragul Utd 0 Berwick Kings 1 (L Medic) (HT: 0-1), Brandon Park 2 (S Kennedy, S Ulas) Monbulk 1 (P Psathas) (HT: 1-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brandon Park	3	3	0	0	7	4	9
Rowville Eagles	4	2	1	1	8	7	7
Noble Park Utd	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Berwick Kings	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
Monbulk	4	1	2	1	7	3	5
Old Melburnians	3	1	1	1	7	5	4
Warragul Utd	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
Croydon City Arrows	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Monash University	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Riversdale	4	1	0	3	5	8	3
White Star Dandenong	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
Lyndale Utd	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

Reserves

Croydon City Arrows 0 Lyndale Utd 1, Rowville Eagles 1 Old Melburnians 1, Noble Park Utd 1 White Star Dandenong 1, Monash University 0 Riversdale 1, Warragul Utd 3 Berwick Kings 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Warragul Utd	3	3	0	0	7	3	9
Lyndale Utd	3	3	0	0	5	2	9
Riversdale	4	3	0	1	4	2	9
Rowville Eagles	4	1	3	0	7	3	6
Croydon City Arrows	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
Berwick Kings	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Monash University	3	1	0	2	5	3	3
Monbulk	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
Noble Park Utd	4	0	2	2	3	6	2
Old Melburnians	3	0	1	2	2	4	1
White Star Dandenong	3	0	1	2	1	8	1
Brandon Park	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

PROVI 2 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Brimbank 1 (B Scicluna) Melbourne Tornado 2 (R Blazevic, L Stolica) (HT: 1-0), Moreland Utd 0 Keon Park 4 (F Tranchitella, C Tsandefskis, W Ammouche, S Gramadid) (HT: 0-2), Collingwood City 0 Whittlesea Utd 3 (HT: 0-1), Mill Park 0 Brimbank City 2 (A Kablar 2) (HT: 0-2), Uni. of Melbourne 1 (NM Doherty) North City Lions 2 (M Schiafone, M Hana) (HT: 1-1), Bell Park 0 Northern Falcons 3 (P Williams, G Romero, Own Goal) (HT: 0-2)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Whittlesea Utd	3	3	0	0	14	1	9
Keon Park	3	3	0	0	8	1	9
Brimbank City	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Bell Park	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Melbourne Tornado	3	2	0	1	6	6	6
Northern Falcons	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Collingwood City	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
North City Lions	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Moreland Utd	3	1	0	2	2	10	3
Uni. of Melbourne	4	0	1	3	3	7	1
Mill Park	3	0	0	3	3	9	0
Brimbank	3	0	0	3	2	9	0

Reserves

Brimbank 2 Melbourne Tornado 1, Moreland Utd 0 Keon Park 2, Collingwood City 7 Whittlesea Utd 1, Mill Park 1 Brimbank City 3, Uni. of Melbourne 0 North City Lions 0, Bell Park 0 Northern Falcons 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
North City Lions	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Bell Park	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Collingwood City	3	2	0	1	10	4	6
Brimbank	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Northern Falcons	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Keon Park	3	2	0	1	6	6	6
Melbourne Tornado	3	1	1	1	10	8	4
Brimbank City	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Uni. of Melbourne	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Moreland Utd	3	1	0	2	1	6	3
Mill Park	3	0	1	2	6	10	1
Whittlesea Utd	3	0	0	3	3	12	0

PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Dandenong Sparrows 0 Keysborough 1 (M Roberts) (HT: 0-0), Old Trinity Grammarians 0 Ashburton 1 (C Prountzos) (HT: 0-0), Carrum Utd 2 (M Cordoma 2) Mitcham Utd 2 (J Spittle, T Gargett) (HT: 0-1), Beaumaris 3 (RA Iles 3) Seaford Utd 0 (HT: 1-0), Noble Park 2 (S Djurovic 2) Mornington 2 (M Bailey 2) (HT: 2-2), Scotch Old Boys 2 (C Jewitt) Caulfield Cobras 0 (HT: 0-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Scotch Old Boys	4	4	0	0	15	1	12
Ashburton	4	3	1	0	12	2	10
Mitcham Utd	3	2	1	0	6	4	7
Carrum Utd	4	2	1	1	6	6	7
Seaford Utd	4	2	0	2	8	6	6
Keysborough	3	2	0	1	2	4	6
Mornington	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Beaumaris	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Caulfield Cobras	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Noble Park	4	0	1	3	6	18	1
Old Trinity Grammarians	3	0	0	3	4	8	0
Dandenong Sparrows	3	0	0	3	1	8	0

Reserves

Dandenong Sparrows 0 Keysborough 1, Old Trinity Grammarians 0 Ashburton 2, Carrum Utd 1 Mitcham Utd 1, Beaumaris 2 Seaford Utd 1, Noble Park 1 Mornington 0, Scotch Old Boys 2 Caulfield Cobras 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Scotch Old Boys	4	3	1	0	10	1	10
Ashburton	4	3	0	1	11	5	9
Keysborough	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Seaford Utd	4	2	0	2	13	9	6
Old Trinity Grammarians	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Beaumaris	4	1	2	1	2	5	5
Mitcham Utd	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Noble Park	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Mornington	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Caulfield Cobras	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Carrum Utd	4	0	2	2	5	13	2
Dandenong Sparrows	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Ascot Vale 1 (E Mariona) Reservoir Utd 2 (S Patti, V Pilak) (HT: 1-1), Youth Utd 1 (R Ates) Melton 1 (J Turnaturi) (HT: 0-1), Northern Utd 1 (I Emer) Epping City 4 (S Giacomin, B Cowman, C Spaliaras 2) (HT: 0-2), Brunswick Zebras 0 Essendon Utd 5 (C Arvanitakis, G Moshovakis, F Giurleo 2, A Amato) (HT: 0-2), Watsonia Heights 0 Dallas Eagles 2 (M Kocaayon 2) (HT: 0-1), Hallam Meadow Park

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Essendon Utd	3	3	0	0	13	2	9
Epping City	3	2	1	0	10	5	7
Dallas Eagles	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
Melton	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Brunswick Zebras	3	1	1	1	5	8	4
Youth Utd	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Reservoir Utd	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Northern Utd	3	1	0	2	5	10	3
Meadow Park	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Watsonia Heights	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
Ascot Vale	3	0	0	3	3	7	0
Hallam	2	0	1	1	3	8	-2

Reserves

Ascot Vale 0 Reservoir Utd 0, Youth Utd 0 Melton 3, Northern Utd 0 Epping City 0, Brunswick Zebras 2 Essendon Utd 1, Watsonia Heights 2 Dallas Eagles 1, Hallam Meadow Park

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Watsonia Heights	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Dallas Eagles	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Melton	3	1	2	0	4	1	5
Ascot Vale	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
Reservoir Utd	3	1	2	0	1	0	5
Brunswick Zebras	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Youth Utd	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Northern Utd	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Essendon Utd	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Epping City	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
Meadow Park	2	0	1	1	1	5	1
Hallam	2	0	2	0	1	1	-1

PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Dandenong Warriors 4 (K Hor, P Ramsamy 2, D Douce) Bundoora Utd 1 (J Nikolovski) (HT: 3-0), Old Brighton Grammarians 2 (M Hunt, N Acquroff) Old Camberwell Grammar 4 (D Gamvrellis, J Bush 2, A Sprekos) (HT: 0-4), Endeavour Hills 2 (M Stemn, Own Goal) Ringwood City 3 (K Sarristavros, S Campbell, S Harrison) (HT: 1-1), Eltham North 1 (C Melville) Brighton 0 (HT: 0-0), Old Carey 0 Boroondara Lions 0 (HT: 0-0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Camberwell Grammar	3	3	0	0	14	3	9
Old Brighton Grammarians	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Eltham North	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Boroondara Lions	4	1	2	1	2	3	5
Old Carey	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Dandenong Warriors	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
Endeavour Hills	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Ringwood City	3	1	1	1	4	7	4
Brighton	3	0	0	3	2	5	0
Dandenong City	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
Bundoora Utd	2	0	0	2	2	13	0

Reserves

Dandenong Warriors 4 Bundoora Utd 3, Old Brighton Grammarians 2 Old Camberwell Grammar 4, Endeavour Hills 0 Ringwood City 0, Eltham North 0 Brighton 3, Old Carey 5 Boroondara Lions 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Dandenong Warriors	3	3	0	0	9	4	9
Old Carey	2	2	0	0	7	0	6
Brighton	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Old Brighton Grammarians	4	2	0	2	9	9	6
Eltham North	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
Old Camberwell Grammar	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Endeavour Hills	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Boroondara Lions	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Bundoora Utd	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
Ringwood City	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Dandenong City	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

ResultsVault football

Visit http://football.resultsvault.com for football results and statistics

ROUND 5 FIXTURES

State NW 2
Lalor Utd v Keilor Park
To Be Confirmed 12 May 07 3:00PM
Altona East Phoenix v Altona City
Paisley Park Soccer Complex 12 May 07 3:00PM
Thomastown Devils v Moreland City
Epping Soccer Stadium 12 May 07 3:00PM
Maribyrnong Greens v Williamstown
Skinner Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Pascoe Vale v Werribee City
CB Smith Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Sunbury Utd v Yarraville Glory
Langama Park 12 May 07 3:00PM

State SE 2
Waverley Wanderers v Diamond Valley Utd
Carlson Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Heatherton Utd v Knox City
Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre 12 May 07 3:00PM
Templestowe Eagles v Chelsea
Wilson Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Stonnington City v South Springvale
Kooyong Reserve No. 3 12 May 07 3:00PM
FC Clifton Hill v Doncaster Rovers
Kevin Bartlett Reserve 12 May 07 7:00PM
Northcote City v North Caulfield
John Cain Memorial Park 13 May 07 3:00PM

State NW 3
Avondale Heights v Geelong Rangers
Doyle Street Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Westvale v La Trobe University
McKechnie Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Banyule City v Sydenham Park
Yallambie Park Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Corio v Lalor
Hume Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Geelong v Cairnlea
Stead Park Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Ballarat Red Devils v Plenty Valley
Lions Austar Arena 12 May 07 8:00PM

State SE 3
Nunawading City v Doveton Mahoneys
Road Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Fitzroy City v Berwick City
White Eagles Stadium12 May 07 3:00PM
Endeavour Utd v Mooroolbark
Reema Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Sandringham City v Southern Suburbs
RJ Sillitoe Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Eastern Lions v Springvale City
Gardiners Creek Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Frankston Strikers v Morwell Pegasus
Ballam Park 12 May 07 3:00PM

Provi NW 1
Hoppers Crossing v North Sunshine Eagles
Grange Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Glenroy v Western Eagles
Strathnaver Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Darebin Utd v Melb Uni Rangers
Mayer Park12 May 07 3:00PM
Hume Utd v West Preston
Laura Douglas Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
South Yarra v Elwood City
Fawkner Park 12 May 07 3:00PM
Melbourne City v Laverton Park
Edwards Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM

Provi SE 1
Monbulk v Riversdale Monbulk
Recreation Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Berwick Kings v Brandon Park
Betula Park 12 May 07 3:00PM
White Star Dandenong v Warragul Utd
Greaves Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Old Melburnians v Noble Park Utd
Robert Menzies Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Lyndale Utd v Rowville Eagles
Lyndale Secondary College 12 May 07 3:00PM
Croydon City v Monash Uni
Dorset Recreational Reserve12 May 07 3:00PM

Provi NW 2
Northern Falcons v Brimbank City
Hayes Park 12 May 07 3:00PM
North City Lions v Bell Park
To Be Confirmed 12 May 07 3:00PM
Whittlesea Utd v Uni. of Melbourne
To Be Confirmed 12 May 07 3:00PM
Keon Park v Collingwood City
JC Donath Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Melbourne Tornado v Moreland Utd
Newmarket Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Brimbank v Mill Park
Italo-Australian Social Club 12 May 07 3:00PM

Provi SE 2
Caulfield Cobras v Seaford Utd
Victory Park 12 May 07 3:00PM
Mornington v Scotch Old Boys
Dallas Brooks Park 12 May 07 3:00PM
Mitcham Utd v Noble Park
Terrara Park 12 May 07 3:00PM
Ashburton v Carrum Utd
Ashburton Park 12 May 07 3:00PM
Keysborough v Old Trinity Grammarians
Coomoora Reserve12 May 07 3:00PM
Dandenong Sparrows v Beaumaris
Fotheringham Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM

Provi NW 3
Meadow Park v Essendon Utd
Gladstone Park Reserve12 May 07 3:00PM
Dallas Eagles v Hallam
To Be Confirmed 12 May 07 3:00PM
Epping City v Watsonia Heights
To Be Confirmed 12 May 07 3:00PM
Melton v Northern Utd
MacPhersons Park 12 May 07 3:00PM
Reservoir Utd v Youth Utd
Cotchin Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM
Ascot Vale v Brunswick Zebras
Fairbairn Park 12 May 07 3:00PM

Provi SE 3
Boroondara Lions v Dandenong City
Darebin International SC 11 May 07 8:30PM
Brighton v Old Carey
Dendy Park 12 May 07 3:00PM
Ringwood City v Eltham
North Jubilee Park12 May 07 3:00PM
Old Camberwell Grammar v Endeavour Hills
Deepdene Park12 May 07 3:00PM
Bundoora Utd v Old Brighton Grammarians
To Be Confirmed 12 May 07 3:00PM
Dandenong Warriors v Bye
Lois Twohig Reserve 12 May 07 3:00PM

ASHBURTON AND BERGERS HOLD EQUAL TOP SPOT

Only two teams now share top position on the Women's Premier League ladder following the matches that made up Round 6 of the WPL, with Ashburton and Heidelberg United enjoying that honour, following their fifth victories of the season. The top five is rounded out by Box Hill, Preston and Sandringham, despite Preston suffering its first upset of the season. Further down the ladder, only Keilor was able to add to its points tally in this weekend's contests.

Keilor registered its second win of the season at the expense of Bendigo Vipers, which slipped further into the mire of potential relegation as a result of its fifth defeat of the season. The sides began the day level on points, and separated only by goal difference, with Bendigo marginally in front. Keilor, with the home advantage, set up its second victory of the year with two goals before the interval. Honours were shared in the second half, with both sides finding the net once, but it was nowhere near enough for the visiting team, enabling Keilor to run out victors by three goals to one. As a result of the victory, Keilor doubles its points tally, moving up to six points and climbing an impressive four places up the ladder, from eleventh to seventh. Bendigo, without a win in its last three games, replaces Keilor in eleventh.

Ashburton made a mockery of Preston Lions' unbeaten record, as it demolished the visiting side with seven unanswered goals at Ashburton Park on Sunday afternoon. Both sides went into the game with a share of top place, having each won four and drawn one of their five games prior to this round. Given the end result, Ashburton started relatively slowly, as the home side only found the net twice in the first half, to take a potentially assailable lead into the break. However, the floodgates opened in the second half, and Preston simply had no answer, as a rampant Ashburton added a further five goals without reply. Even more remarkable, given the high score in the game, was that there were only two players that scored, with Seyma Erenli bagging an impressive five goals, and Annabelle Gibney notching the other two. Ashburton remain atop the ladder, now with sixteen points and a healthy goal difference, while Preston remain on thirteen points, and slip a place to fourth.

Box Hill Inter ensured that Eastern Lions' revival was a brief one, as it chalked up its biggest win since Round 1, dispatching its host 4-0 at Gardiners Creek Reserve on Saturday afternoon. Two goals in each half were enough for the reigning premier to record its fourth victory of the season and lift it above Preston into third on goal difference. The defeat was Eastern's fourth of the season, and ends its recent resurgence which had seen it pick up all four of its points in its last two matches. It slides a place to ninth on the ladder following the defeat.

Vanessa Heller (Cranbourne) & Elise O'Connor (Sandringham)
WPL - Sandringham v Casey Comets
RJ Sillitoe Reserve

Heidelberg United maintained its share of the lead on the WPL ladder with a four-goal victory over league newcomer the University of Melbourne at Olympic Village on Sunday afternoon. As with the round's other 4-0 result, Heidelberg achieved its win with two goals either side of half time. Sonia Romano continued her good form in front of goal, by bagging another brace to enable her team to chalk up its fifth victory of the year, and remain one of three teams yet to suffer defeat. The reversal was the University's third consecutive loss and fourth of the year, but with the teams below it also losing, it remains seventh on the ladder.

Sandringham maintained its position in the top five and extended its unbeaten run to six games with a comprehensive 3-0 victory over the struggling Casey Comets at RJ Sillitoe Reserve on Saturday afternoon. The game was delicately poised at half time, with the home side edging proceedings by a single goal, but it was able to treble its lead after the interval, while Casey could find nothing in reply. Despite the loss, Casey remains eighth on the ladder, with four points from six games, but it is still a bizarre position in which to see a club that has been at the forefront of the women's game for so many years. Sandringham continues to sit on the shoulder of the leading pack, with twelve points from six matches, and it is only outside the leading group due to having drawn half of its games so far.

In the final game of the round, Eltham North was looking to bounce back quickly from its second defeat of the season, when it met WVSA at Darebin on Sunday evening. Having only lost to Box Hill Inter and Preston Lions, Eltham would have felt relatively confident going into the game, given it was facing the bottom side in the league. WVSA has found itself somewhat out of its depth since its ascension to the top flight, having suffered defeat in all five of its games to date, and conceding a total of 27 goals in the process. The match was scheduled to kick off at 7pm on Sunday evening at DISC.

Round 7 pits two of the competition's oldest foes against each other, when Box Hill Inter host Casey Comets at Wembley Park on Friday night, although current form would suggest that this may not be quite so close affair as matches between the sides have traditionally been. Bendigo Vipers will attempt to halt its slide down the table when it welcomes Eastern Lions to Beischer Oval on Saturday afternoon, in a match that both sides will view as winnable. The remaining matches all take place on Sunday afternoon, with Preston Lions facing a second successive tough match when it takes on Heidelberg United at BT Connor Reserve, followed by the University of Melbourne against Keilor Park at Princes Park in Parkville. Bottom of the table WVSA face current league leader Ashburton at Howard Glover Reserve, with Eltham North against Sandringham at DISC rounding out the proceedings.

By Niki Cook

Photos by John Punshon

ROUND SEVEN FIXTURES

Box Hill v Casey Comets
Wembley Park 11 May 07 8:30PM

Bendigo Vipers v Eastern Lions
Beischer Oval 12 May 07 2:30PM

Preston Lions v Heidelberg Utd
BT Connor Reserve 13 May 07 1:00PM

Uni. of Melbourne v Keilor Park
Princes Park (Parkville) 13 May 07 3:00PM

WVSA v Ashburton
Howard Glover Reserve 13 May 07 3:00PM

Eltham North v Sandringham
Darebin International SC 13 May 07 3:00PM

WPL RESULTS

Eastern Lions 0 Box Hill 4 (K Smith, G Koutrouvelis, B Pacella, A Sinclair) (HT: 0-2), Sandringham 3 (A Benton, A Good, E O'Connor) Casey Comets 0 (HT: 1-0), Heidelberg Utd 4 (L Balta, J Maza, SS Romano 2) Uni. of Melbourne 0 (HT: 2-0), Keilor Park 3 (K Nicolaci 2, J Miller) Bendigo Vipers 1 (M Ruyter-Hooley) (HT: 2-0), Ashburton 7 (S Erenli 5, A Gibney 2) Preston Lions 0 (HT: 2-0), Eltham North WVSA (HT: -)

WPL RESERVE DETAILS

Eastern Lions 2 Box Hill Inter 1 (HT: -), Sandringham 2 Casey Comets 0 (HT: -), Heidelberg Utd 1 Uni. of Melbourne 0 (HT: -), Keilor Park 6 Bendigo Vipers 1 (HT: -), Ashburton 5 Preston Lions 0 (HT: -),

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Ashburton	6	6	0	0	41	1	18
Sandringham	6	6	0	0	30	2	18
Eltham North	5	5	0	0	27	2	15
Keilor Park	6	5	0	1	18	6	15
Heidelberg Utd	6	4	0	2	13	7	12
Eastern Lions	6	3	0	3	9	15	9
Uni. of Melbourne	6	2	0	4	5	24	6
Bendigo Vipers	6	1	1	4	9	33	4
Box Hill Inter	6	1	0	5	8	18	3
Preston Lions	6	0	2	4	2	16	2
WVSA	5	0	1	4	2	20	1
Casey Comets	6	0	0	6	1	21	0

WPL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Ashburton	6	5	1	0	25	3	16
Heidelberg Utd	6	5	1	0	19	7	16
Box Hill	6	4	1	1	21	8	13
Preston Lions	6	4	1	1	10	12	13
Sandringham	6	3	3	0	17	8	12
Eltham North	5	3	0	2	9	6	9
Keilor Park	6	2	0	4	12	17	6
Casey Comets	6	1	1	4	6	11	4
Uni. of Melbourne	6	1	1	4	10	16	4
Eastern Lions	6	1	1	4	6	19	4
Bendigo Vipers	6	1	0	5	9	16	3
WVSA	5	0	0	5	6	27	0

Katsa's Korner

With George Katsamboukas

Another big week in football! Let's begin with the Foxtel Cup Transfer Roller Door which opened up on May 1st. The year's worst kept secret was the signing of former NZ Knights, Marconi and Kingston 'keeper Michael Turnbull, who signed for the Oakleigh Cannons.

News of Oakleigh's new signing was doing the rounds even before the ink was dry on his contract.Rumour has it that he will be flying in and out of Melbourne from Sydney each week to play. If this is the case, I strongly suggest that he enrols in a frequent flyer rewards program. He should have enough points at the end of the season to score a free, round the world ticket.

The Roller Door will remain open until the end of this month. Transfers to date have been minimal, but you will find that there will be a frenzy towards the end of this month, as many clubs will panic buy to either get themselves out of the drop zone or to secure a happy end in making the Finals.

In other news, Richmond coach Phil Stubbins has scored the gig at Adelaide United, as Assistant Coach to Aurelio Vidmar. Great for Phil, however, how do I cater for this on my yet to be released, Foxtel Cup Coaches Scoreboard? Century or double century? Richmond now has to search for a replacement for Stubbins, who begins his new job in the City of Churches in 7 weeks. They do however have a big draw card at Kevin Bartlett Reserve to attract a top flight coach and that is the opportunity to work with the one and only, Boo. If that does not clinch it, the cakes and heated red wine offered on match days should tip the new coach's decision the right way.

Speaking of Foxtel Cup coaches it seems that even though they are all still gainfully employed, some of them are under enormous pressure to produce results. Watch this space. A huge wicket of an accomplished batsman will soon fall over the next couple of weeks if his team does not start performing. There is an actual formula that you can apply to determine how safe each coach is.

It goes something like this:
Number of games won multiplied by position on the ladder divided by number of committee members unhappy divided by last result, multiplied by number of unhappy supporters, divided by number of unhappy players in his squad.

Seeing Goran Lozanovski at the Kingston versus Preston Lions match last week reminded me that we both shared something in common in our playing days - and that was that we both wore yellow Puma Kings boots.That's where the similarities end though as Loza was actually a very good player who won a couple of NSL championships, and represented Australia. Compared to my handful of Provi League Ressies championships and failure to make the cut at the Regional Under 15's level.

The FFV has a new El-Supremo with Mark Rendell. The new FFV CEO quietly slipping into Darebin headquarters this week to commence his new role. Seems that Mark will have a few issues to tackle early on, one of them being the South Melbourne versus Melbourne Knights game, where the match was not played, and South forfeited 3 match points. Word around the traps is that this issue is currently being revisited.

The "Oh, what a feeling Toyota commercial" was re-taped right before my eyes recently, where one high ranking club official made a huge leap and kick of his heels, as he heard that two teams suffered defeats on the weekend.

Katsa and J Walker were also winners, as he insisted on shouting everyone in sight – repeatedly!

Till next week.

This is Katsa – Just as you've known him!

BOO'S WORLD

A satirical look at the World of Football according to Mark Boric

It's time to go back to the future as I dig deep to the bottom of my pile of old Soccer Actions. From the second issue back in February 1976 the headline screamed SOCCEROO SET TO PLAY VFL.

In the middle of a transfer wrangle between Melbourne and South Melbourne, Duncan Cummings threatened to switch codes and join Richmond. Richmond secretary Alan Schwab is quoted as saying "We are very keen to get Cummings". In later years, Schwab would die in a Sydney hotel room on AFL business which may have involved drugs and hookers. Cummings would eventually be cleared to play for South Melbourne.

A picture on the cover of issue three was also VFL/AFL related with the "Champs of Two Codes" article revealing John Newman, Peter Ollerton and Doug Wade were workmates who read Soccer Action together. John Newman is now more widely known as Sam Newman.

In March South Melbourne playboy Ulysses Kokkinos revealed he was considering settling down and getting married, whilst denying reports he had been linked to massage parlors as a masseur of women. "I wish the reports were true because you can make a lot of money out of the massage parlors. I would give up soccer forever!" he told Peter Sweeney.

April saw plans for a National League pressing ahead with no applications from Victoria.
With three vacancies left open, the nine applicants were Hakoah, St George, Western Suburbs, Marconi and Olympic (Pan Hellenic) from Sydney, Lions and Brisbane City from Brisbane and Adelaide's Juventus and Hellas. Juventus were already being referred to as Adelaide City and Hellas as West Adelaide.

COACHING FURORE! The appointment of Jim Shoulder as national coach riffled a few feathers. The unsuccessful candidates were Rale Rasic, Johnny Warren and Alan Vest.

It was a decision rife with politics. The Englishman who was regional coaching director of the A.C.T. and had only ever worked running coaching courses and coaching coaches and had never led a competitive team. National Coaching Director Eric Worthington had favoured Shoulder, and with ASF President Sir Arthur George had the backing of the smaller state federations before convincing Victorian delegate Michael Weinsten to block the appointment of Rasic and Warren. Warren claimed "Cigarette money, that's what it's about. Worthington is employed by Rothmans and Rothmans has said it will sponsor the national league for $100,000. Obviously the ASF does not want to upset Rothmans".

The drama continued, and in May a headline declared I'M SICK OF SOCCER! Rale Rasic stated "I never again want anything to do with representative soccer - either on a national or state level - as long as the current ASF chiefs remnain in power". He then did what seemed to be the trend at the time and threatened to switch codes. "The sports complex Johhny Warren and I manage ar Dural, NSWm will soon start offering coaching and physical preparation courses to Rugby players and I have had talks with a couple of rugby clubs about the possibility of becoming involved".

Soccer Action: The bible from yesteryear. So much has changed, yet so much has remained the same.

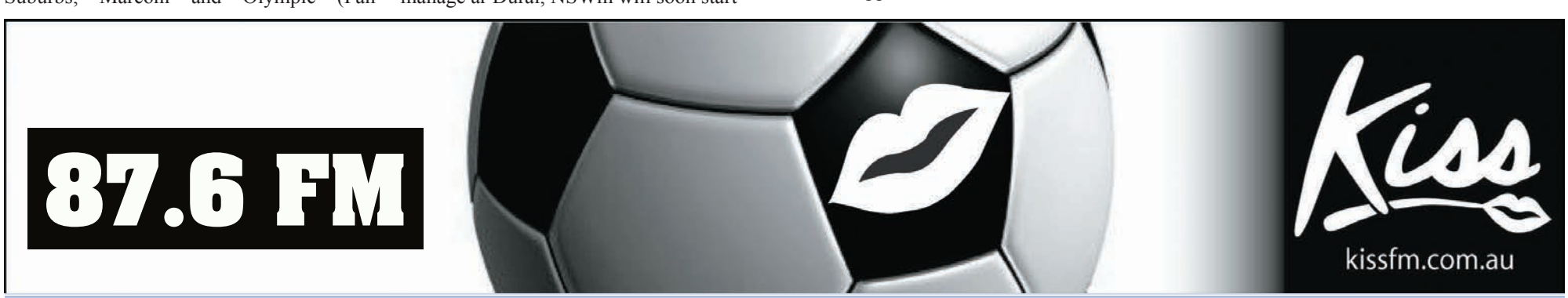
GREEKS DECLARE WAR! This headline came about after South Melbourne Hellas and Fitzroy Alexander got into a dispute over Margaritis Higigmanouil, who the both sought to sign from Port Melbourne. Nick Katsakis, Alexander's publicity officer revealed "War has started. Any player Hellas approaches in the future will also be approached by Alexander". It hardly seems like a mature way to run a football club. Hellas President Sam Papasavas commented that "Alexander had about five months to sign him, but they didn't".

By June the new National League finally had Victorian representation when Mooroolbark applied, promoting George Cross, Alexander, South Melbourne Hellas and Footscray J.U.S.T. to indicate they would follow suit. Eventually they did, joined by Sunshine City and Essendon Lions. When the ASF decided only three of the seven would be admitted, the fun and games were ready to begin.

A headline in July indicated the National League may be played in summer. This didn't happen, but it was the winter/summer debate would continue on every year until the NSL eventually moved to summer soccer in 1989/1990. Well, it still continued after that as well. Especially after SBS discovered money could be made from SMS Phone Polls.

Another major sponsor emerged, who would rival Rothman's for naming rights honours. With this money came an increase from 12 to 14 teams. The sponsor remained un-named for months, building up an announcement on a nationwide closed circuit television hook-up in October arranged vira the 0-10 Network. Turns out it that it was electrical company Phillips.

Who didn't see that one coming? If you didn't keep an eye out for more Boo's Soccer Action Reviews where I will learn you proper about our soccer past.



KINGS CONTINUE TO REIGN

Warragul United 0 - 1 Berwick Kings

Berwick Kings have continued their winning ways with a 1-0 win over Warragul United, at Warragul.

The match got off to a slow start, with play being controlled by the midfield. Warragul had the first shot at goal in the 3rd minute of play when a throw-in from the left side of the pitch was played through the midfield, before being sent over the bar. Minutes later, Tsiaplias was cautioned for a late tackle on a Warragul player, resulting in a free kick from approximately 20 yards out, which was confidently save by Eleftheriou.

Berwick struggled to find their rhythm and it showed with their lack of accurate passing. Kruno Stanisic was able to break free however, taking on 3 Warragul defenders in his run at goal, only to lose the ball just inside the 18 yard box. Warragul responded minutes later taking the ball down the left side and crossing it into the penalty area, shooting just wide of the left post, making it clear Berwick were not in for an easy game. Berwick eventually settled into a rhythm, with a Mirko Kokorovic cross from the left side of the pitch being sent marginally wide of the post by Tsiaplias in the 27th minute.

A free kick awarded soon after to Berwick as a result of a foul on Djordjevic, gave them their best chance so far. Adamovic crossed the ball into the 18 yard box, which unfortunately was blocked from goal by the Warragul defence.

As the first half progressed Berwick threatened to take the lead. Just after the half hour mark Stanisic and Djordjevic adopted a quick passing game, driving the ball into the penalty area, before it was cleared by the Warragul defence once again. This followed with a pass from Tsiaplias to Medic, placing the ball into the 6 yard box, with the ball being sent out of play and Medic awarded a yellow card for deliberate diving.

Berwick began to control the game, and looked to create another chance at goal. Medic capitalised on a loose ball in the 38th minute, rounding the Warragul keeper and placing the ball into the bottom left hand corner of the net, making the score 1-0 and putting Berwick into the lead. Warragul searched in vain for an equaliser for the remainder of the first half. Their forwards were forced to make errors continually as the Berwick defence worked hard to deny them of a goal. They were however able to get a corner 2 minutes from the break, crossing the ball into the 6yard box, which unluckily for them Eleftheriou punched clear.

Berwick got the second half underway, searching for their next goal. In the 50th minute Tsiaplias and Medic teamed upon once again, but unfortunately placed the ball just wide of the net.

Two Warragul players received yellow cards in two separate incidents minutes later, with the later resulting in a Berwick free kick, which was taken by Dario Adamovic and sent over the bar. As second half progressed both teams searched for goals without any success. Berwick substituted Ubiparipovic and Blanusa into the team in the second half in an attempt to strengthen and hold their position. Skavo was also substituted on in the 90th minute, replacing scorer Medic.

A Warragul attempt to equalise in the 90th minute created a heart stopping moment. Warragul drove the ball straight into the 6 yard box and a scramble to save the ball ensued, with both Eleftheriou and Berwick's defence giving their all to prevent their hard work from being undone.

Another attempt by Warragul in extra time was sent wide of the left post as inaccurate kicking once again let them down, ensuring Berwick were able to hold on and win the match.

Berwick Kings face Brandon Park at home next week and will no doubt be looking to make it three wins in a row.

Provi One SE

By Laura Little

BRUNSWICK CITY BROUGHT DOWN TO EARTH WITH A THUD

Casey Comets 4 Brunswick City 1

Thistime last week Brunswick City was riding high on the back of a 3-0 win and after two games played were the only team not to drop any points. But as a wise person once said 'a week is a long time in football' as they were comprehensively thrashed by the one of the league's newcomers Casey Comets. The demolition job was completed in a spell of 25 minutes when the home team played some impressive football but were also helped by some uncharacteristic mistakes by Brunswick's custodian , Con Dimitropoulos. Fikret Korkaric opened the score in the 14' when his precisely struck free kick beat Dimitropoulos struck the post and rebounded into the net. The second goal came in the 19' courtesy of a goalkeeing blunder when Dimitropoulos spilled a regulation take from a free kick to hand Ciccarelli an easy tap in and 2-0 lead. Brunswick coach George Katsakis appeared to make some minor changes to his team's configuration in an attempt to get at least one back before the major break. Unfortunately for the visitors it was the Comets who scored again in the 35' when a miscued cross came off the woodwork to Vucas whose header found Korkaric unmarked as he calmly made it 3-0. The goalscorer turned provider in the 39' when his quality cross from the right beat all the Brunswick defenders and found Ciccarelli at full stretch with a diving header to put the result beyond doubt and gives the Comets their first win of the season.

At the major break Katsakis's stern words must have given the Brunswick boys a reality check and the visitors came out after the break intent on giving a better account of themselves. Brunswick began to get on top in the midfield and got a goal back in the 63' when another goalkeeping blunder allowed the score line to become 4-1. O'Hare was on hand to tap the goal in after the Comet's custodian dropped a regulation cross in his 18 yard box. O'Hare would have considered himself unlucky in the 83' when a penalty claim was ignored after he was clearly brought down in the penalty box. Whether this was a mistake in judgement by the match official or a feeble attempt at getting a penalty it was symbolic of the day for Brunswick where very little went their way. For City they will need to regroup in order to provide a better showing in front of their home fans next week at Dunstan Reserve where they take on league leaders Coburg.

Goalscorers: F.Korkaric (2) 14' and 35', A.Ciccarelli (2)19' and 39',R.O'Hare 63'
Best: Mazzarella, Drake, C.Vouloumanos,
Line up: Dimitropoulos, Danos, Drake, J.Vouloumanos, Franklin, Bosnic (73' Tapanong), Mazzarella, Arico (58' Patikkis), D.Genovese (45' A. Genovese), O'Hare, C.Vouloumanos

Reserves

The Under 21 team fared no better going down 2-0 in what was a very disappointing display. A soft goal early on after another goalkeeping blunder saw the visitors go 1-0 down in the 19' and just before the main break a defensive error allowed the Comets striker to pounce on loose ball and create a 1 on 1 opportunity which he took well. In the second half Brunswick showed some fighting spirit but an abundance of technical mistakes coupled with some good defensive tactics by the Comets kept Brunswick scoreless.

Best: Raponi, Cicchiti, Dokolas, Mazzarella

Division One

By Lou Simiopoulos

FOXES CAUGHT IN RED DEVILS' TRAPS

Well it's almost hard to believe that one third of the season has already been played with action a plenty in Rnd 6 of the FFSA BEST League over the weekend.

Campbelltown City Red Devils travelled to Bailey Reserve, home of the Cumberland Foxes to compete in the Robbie Parks Memorial Trophy Day. Robbie Parks was a championship winning goalkeeper for Cumberland in 1978 and for Campbelltown in 1986 who tragically lost his long battle with cancer in 2005. Now every time Cumberland United & Campbelltown City clash in the league we honour his memory with the awarding of the Robbie Parks Trophy to the winning team, the player of the day also receives the Robbie Parks Medal.

It was the second game in four days for the Red Devils, after they won their re-scheduled Rnd 5 match last Wednesday night against Raiders in a thrilling game that had Raiders Vidakovic and Kalogerias being sent off along with their coach Carl Maynard. Campbelltown's Mimi Saric becoming the hero in that game by negotiating the ball through a crowded goal mouth for an 89th min match winning goal. Game 2 saw Campbelltown Red Devils seeming to have it all their way, being hellishly far too superior over Cumberland putting five goals past the young but hard-working keeper Carl Robinson.

Red Devil Dominic Signoriello, with his usual brilliant runs down the left flank, was able to supply goalscorers Matthew Deegan, Mimi Saric, newcomer Simon Catanzaro and Oliver Totani (2) and was awarded the Robbie Parks Medal for his efforts. Final Score Foxes 0 - Red Devils 5.

At Marden Sports Complex the match between mid table clubs Adelaide Blue Eagles and Adelaide Galaxy was fought out in a tight tousle as was expected. In the first half neither team was able to dominate, matching each other play for play but Galaxy's second half saw players like Evan Gooding, Elias Vlassis and Steven Grelli step up the pace to consistently create more opportunities only to be denied by Blue Eagles champion keeper Gino DeLucia. Eventually it was Galaxy's Iandorio who was able to easily put away a well-placed ball in the 75th min after DeLucia was caught out of position. That lead was short-lived when Blue Eagles answered immediately in the 60 seconds that followed with a beautifully timed header from coach/player Diego Pellegrini but squandered a golden opportunity to take the lead in the final minute of the match. Final Score Adelaide Blue Eagles 1 - Adelaide Galaxy 1.

In other games Raiders at home overcame their 2 man loss to their squad and did the job on Para Hills late in the game with goals scored by Michael Cartwright (60' penalty) and new seasons signings from Croydon Kings Osama Malik (77') and Fortunato Filleti (84'). In a night game that was changed to TK Shutter Reserve, MetroStars and White City Woodville both coming off a loss from the previous week, were looking to come away with the 3 points. Home team MetroStars showed us they had the goods, easily defeating the Warriors 3 - zip. Goalscorers for MetroStars were Russell Waller, David Menechella and A-League club seeking champion defender Ivan Karlovic.

Our second instalment of Monday night Football will be the match between Modbury Jets and top of the table Adelaide City at Adelaide City Park, Oakden.

BEST League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Campbelltown	6	4	2	0	14	6	14
Adelaide City	5	4	1	0	16	8	13
MetroStars	6	3	2	1	12	5	11
Adelaide Galaxy	6	2	2	2	13	7	8
Blue Eagles	6	2	2	2	8	5	8
Raiders	6	2	2	2	5	6	8
Para Hills	6	2	0	4	12	15	6
Cumberland	6	2	0	4	4	15	6
White City	6	1	1	4	8	18	4
Modbury	5	1	0	4	6	13	3

South Australia

By Nat Adamopoulos

England Round-up

A Pom's Home View
by Succeroo

The dream of an all-English Champions League final is over. Robbed of the prospect of Chelsea and Manchester United battling it out for a third time, or the clash of the biggest and oldest fan rivalry (Liverpool and Manchester United), we now look forward to the repeat of the 2005 final of Liverpool and AC Milan.

An all-English Champions League final would have been exciting and helped to justify the Premiership's claim of being the best league in Europe. In the past we've seen an all-Spanish final and an all-Italian one. Challenging on more than two fronts has cost United and Chelsea dear this week. Last weekend, Man United showed astonishing strength when they clawed back a 2-0 deficit to beat Everton 4-2. Chelsea were held to a second consecutive draw by Bolton, creating a 5 point gap.

But Man United's Premiership gain was their European loss. The lack of belief about United ability to make another come back was visible in their star player Cristiano Ronaldo. Recently crowned the Premiership star player, he tried to create some magic but it just wasn't happening. Ferguson was graceful in defeat and his respect for Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti meant he did not stoop low enough to mention the fact that Milan perhaps should not have been competing (as they were originally thrown out of the Champions League because of the match-fixing scandal in Serie A last season). I can't imagine that Mourinho would have left the point unsaid. For United, there's still the small matter of the League and FA Cup Double to quench their thirst for success.

The vocal Anfield crowd was the was the main difference on the night...

Meanwhile, Jose Mourinho was stripped of his self-appointed status as 'the special one' and more aptly known as 'the deluded one' as he had to swallow a second semi-final defeat in front of a healthy, vocal Anfield crowd. Without grace he still insisted that the 'best team lost.' As with United, on the night Chelsea was poor. They looked tired and lacked imagination, and tendered to concentrate more on creative diving in order to win a penalty. Which was farcical, as when it finally came down to a penalty shoot out; the Chelsea players still couldn't perform. For Chelsea there's still the Cup double, as the slim hope of the Premiership will likely end at the Emirates stadium on Sunday.

Liverpool lost last weekend, fielding an under-strength team against Portsmouth. Fresh legged against Chelsea they enjoyed the nature of the scrappy game, but are unlikely to receive such an easier time against AC Milan in the final. Milan has hit top form at the right time and their dominance may overwhelm Liverpool as they will be eager to avenge Liverpool's miracle come back in Istanbul 2005. But who would bet against Rafael Benitez making it a remarkable two Champions League wins in three seasons at Liverpool? With more money becoming available in the summer he may yet transfer the cup team into competitively challenging for the Premiership.

Premiership Table

As at: Sun 6 May 07

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Man Utd	36	28	4	4	83	26	57	88
Chelsea	35	24	8	3	62	22	40	80
Liverpool	37	20	7	10	55	25	30	67
Arsenal	36	19	9	8	62	34	28	66
Everton	37	15	12	10	51	35	16	57
Bolton	37	16	7	14	45	50	-5	55
Reading	37	16	6	15	49	44	5	54
Portsmouth	37	14	11	12	45	42	3	53
Tottenham	35	15	8	12	52	52	0	53
Blackburn	36	15	5	16	48	50	-2	50
Aston Villa	37	11	16	10	41	39	2	49
Middlesbrough	37	11	10	16	41	48	-7	43
Newcastle	37	11	9	17	37	46	-9	42
Man City	37	11	9	17	28	42	-14	42
Fulham	37	8	15	14	37	57	-20	39
Sheff Utd	37	10	8	19	31	53	-22	38
West Ham	37	11	5	21	34	59	-25	38
Wigan Athletic	37	9	8	20	35	58	-23	35
Charlton	36	8	9	19	32	56	-24	33
Watford	37	5	12	20	28	58	-30	27

Gossip from the English Media....

Sam Allardyce is set to be named as the new manager of Newcastle United on 14 May, the day after the Premiership finishes. (The Sun)

Man City midfielder Joey Barton could face court action after his training ground attack on Ousmane Dabo left the Frenchman unconscious and with a damaged eye. (Various)

The Premier League is facing a mutiny after six clubs snubbed peace talks aimed at preventing court action over West Ham's punishment. (Daily Star)

Wigan chairman Dave Whelan says the bottom six clubs are preparing a £70m lawsuit. (Daily Express)

Wayne Rooney, Cristiano Ronaldo and Alex Ferguson, have been sent hoax letters claiming to contain poison. (Various)

Peter Shilton deliberately left Diego Maradona out of his Perfect XI for FourFourTwo because he has still not apologised for his 'Hand of God' goal in the 1986 World Cup. (Independent)

Jose Reina can emulate his dad by playing in the Champions League final - and exorcise the demons that have haunted his family for 33 years. His father Miguel Reina was a Spanish international keeper in 1974 playing in the final for Atletico Madrid, and he let in a long-range shot with seconds to go to hand Bayern Munich a replay. Atletico lost the replay 4-0. (The Sun)

Steven Gerrard is to pledge the rest of his career to Liverpool for £6m a year. (The Sun)

David Beckham, who celebrated his 32nd birthday on Thursday, has thanked Simon Fuller for fixing him up with his wife Victoria. (The Sun)

Former Liverpool striker Milan Baros has been banned for three games for pretending that an opponent smelled. (Daily Mirror)

Patrice Evra asked to be housed near a church when he joined Manchester United so that he could "give thanks that he was able to play for the best club in the world each week". (Daily Express)

Results

May 5
Barclays Premiership

Aston Villa 3 Sheff Utd 0

Everton 3 Portsmouth 0

Fulham 1 Liverpool 0

Man City 0 Man Utd 1

Newcastle 0 Blackburn 2

Reading 0 Watford 2

West Ham 3 Bolton 1

Wigan 0 Middlesbrough 1

All facts and fictions borrowed from the following websites: www.bbc.co.uk/ www.premierleague.com/ www.sundaymirror.co.uk/ www.express.co.uk/ www.dailymail.co.uk/ www.mirror.co.uk/ www.dailystar.co.uk/ www.telegraph.co.uk/ www.guardian.co.uk/ www.independent.co.uk/ www.thesun.co.uk/ www.timesonline.co.uk/ www.dailyrecord.co.uk/ www.newsoftheworld.co.uk/ www.people.co.uk/

Italy

WHAT A YEAR FOR THE ROSSONERI!

The chants of Milan! Milan! Milan! echoed loudly around the San Siro earlier this week as the red and black Devils of Italy put the Red Devils of England to the sword, in their Champions League semi-final encounter.

AC Milan's 3-0 victory over Manchester United ensured the progression of the Milan juggernaut to its 11th Champion's League final, and its 3rd in 5 years. And what a final it promises to be as two of the most famous clubs in the world stand toe-to-toe in a rematch of the 2004/5 epic which saw the "Reds" of England prevail in a penalty shootout in one of the most memorable Champion's League finals ever.

Milan's road to Athens has not been without its fair share of controversy. There are many who disputed the Rossoneri's right to play in European competition after the club was embroiled in a match-fixing scandal last year. The club received a 15-point deduction, which was later reduced to 8 points on appeal. The feeling among the European soccer community was that the Rossoneri got off too lightly.

Despite all the controversies and the 8-point deduction, the Rossoneri have recently found a rich vein of form in the domestic league to elevate themselves to 4th place, one point behind 3rd placed Lazio. With a handful of games remaining, the Rossoneri have a fighting chance of securing third place, which would guarantee AC a place in Europe even if they were to lose to Liverpool in Athens. An amazing turnaround given where Milan started the 06/07 campaign.

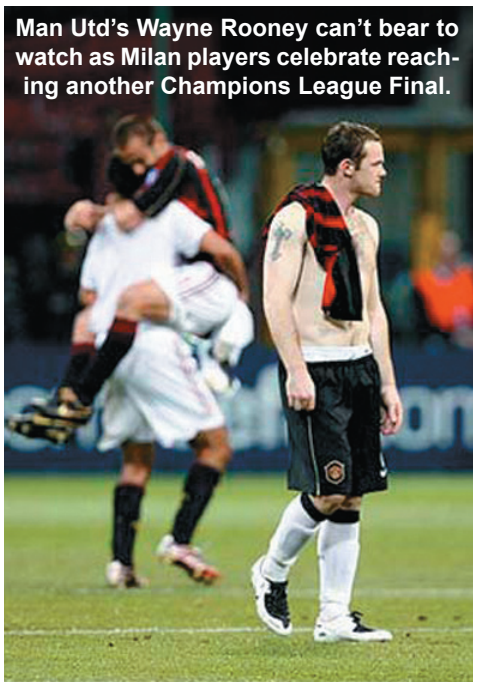
Much of Milan's resurgence in the Italian domestic league can be attributed to the man christened by Pele, El fenomeno - "The Phenomenon" otherwise known as Ronaldo. His double last week against Cagliari took his total to 7 from 11 games and has gone a long way to repairing his tarnished reputation after a lack lustre season in Madrid. Ronaldo is ineligible to play in the Champion's league final but his domestic form has silenced Ancelotti's critics who originally viewed the Brazilian sharpshooter's recruitment as an ill-advised gamble.

While Ronaldo has made his presence felt in the red and black, no one has been more instrumental in Milan's 06/07 fortunes than Ronaldo's countryman Kaka. Widely acclaimed as the best player in the world, Kaka has the unique mixture of Brazilian flair combined with European strength. Able to take a playmakers role and score goals, he has terrorized defences all over Europe and his performances against Man U were breathtaking, his goal at Old Trafford where he out-muscled Heinze and Evra, balanced and then clinically slotted the ball past an advancing Van Der Sar, was unforgettable.

Last Wednesday, on a rain-soaked San Siro pitch, AC Milan showed the world just what they could do. They were simply unstoppable. Kaka was ably supported by the veteran Seedorf who had one of his best games of the season, Gattuso was his ferocious best and had the look of a man who would fight his own shadow, Pirlo was controlling the space in front of his back four who were well led by the enforcer Nesta. The much-vaunted strike force of Christiano Ronaldo and Rooney hardly had a look-in. Even the usually stoic Sir Alex was forced to concede that his team was beaten by a superior unit who controlled the ball and never gave it away, "If you're going to lose a game, and they're going to play some fantastic football and open you up really well to do that, you put your hands up and say, 'We played a good side tonight,'" Ferguson said. "But we gave the goals away cheaply."

In Athens, the Rossoneri will face a different challenge. Man U tried to match the Milanese in playing attacking, attractive football but they lost. Football however, has many different cultures: AC Milan is the elegant and beautiful, Liverpool is the tough and spirited. Many pundits are predicting an easy victory for the Rossoneri after the demolition of their last English opponent, but look closely and there are signs that the Athens showdown will be much closer than many pundits predict.

Anfield breeds them tough; the culture is one of hard work and sacrifice for the team, the "Kop" is more likely to embrace the player who dives into every tackle and leaves the pitch totally spent, but slower to warm to those who lack the "die for the cause" attitude no matter what level of skill they possess. Mascherano, a West Ham reject, died for the cause against Chelsea and was met with a standing ovation when he left the field.



Man Utd's Wayne Rooney can't bear to watch as Milan players celebrate reaching another Champions League Final.

As well as there undeniable spirit, Liverpool has a master tactician in Rafa at the helm - a man who knows how to win in Europe. The combination of a hard-working team and tactical excellence will mean that Liverpool is in with a fighting chance of spoiling Milan's party. On top of which, Liverpool will have a home crowd as many from Merseyside will make the trip and the Greek neutrals are likely to side with the English club, given the history of the Italians and Greeks.

The last time these two giants met in Istanbul, Liverpool reversed a 3-0 half-time deficit to force a penalty shootout and win the Champion's League. Steve Gerard ran all over the Milan midfield to change the course of the game in less than 10 minutes. Many Italian journalists bemoaned a lack of spine in the Rossoneri and the players returned to Italy to a barrage of criticism. The memory still burns in the mind of many of the Rossoneri, and they hunger for revenge and retribution.

AC Milan and Liverpool square up to each other, once again, in the showpiece of European football in Athens on the 23rd May. 11 champions league tiles between them, countless domestic titles and a cupboard full of other silverware. It will be a clash of European Giants. The prospect is mouth-watering: two different styles, two different cultures, and great battles all over the pitch.

If AC is allowed to keep possession and run at the Liverpool defence as they did against Man U then they will make it 7 Champion's Leagues titles, especially if Kaka is allowed time on the ball. If it comes down to a scrap, then the Merseysiders will be up for the fight. Rafa will try and extend the fight to the death as the longer the contest the more suited to Liverpool, he knows his boys would be favourite if it should come down to penalties.

Whatever happens, we are all in for one hell of a show come 23rd of May.

By Joe Novella

Champions League

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By Nat Adamopoulos

AND WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS...

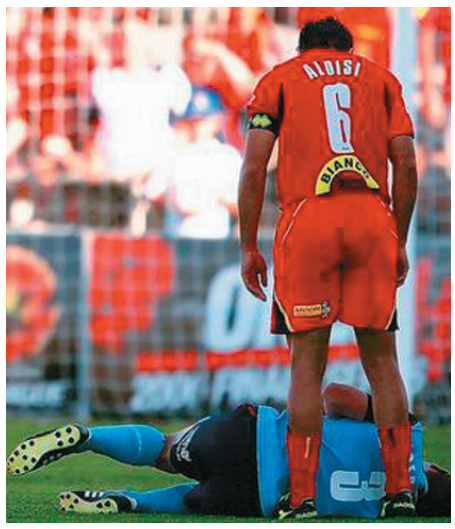
It's been a case of 'musical chairs' lately at Adelaide United FC through repercussions from the 2006/076 A-League Grand Final.

First we had John Kosmina losing his seat, probably due to the 'dark forces of the universe' he spoke about with captain, Ross Aloisi, following soon after. The veteran Killer V's of Valkanis and Veart were stung by their own forked tongues having to face the music after their GF comments. Greg Owens just didn't want to play anymore so he packed up his bag and ball and went off home! Qu went back to China with things just not working out for him after an injury affected 6 months managing only to play 7 games with AUFC. Ang Costanzo was given the nod as captain material for the Asian Champions League which he grabbed with both hands gladly. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Aurelio Vidmar holds the fort as only he knows how.

Young guns and Olyroos team mates Nathan Burns and Bruce Djite say yes to signing on the dotted line and fellow Olyroos team mate, dual footed - Prime Minister John Howard forehead kisser Kristian Sarkies (Melbourne Victory's playmaker) follows suit. Now theres a first – South Australia taking something successful away from the Vics? Well we got tit-for-tat with that one when Matti Kemp announced that he was travelling across the border to sign for Melb Victory (touché) and cool-hand-luke Viddie's still holding the fort. That's cos he's got his ear to the ground listening for when the music stops.

We've had CEO Michael Petrillo doing a two-step, moving over to one side and taking the position of Director of Football at the club while old hand at the job, Adelaide United's inaugural CEO Sam Ciccarello was headhunted to have a second crack at the top job. Gotta be a message in there somewhere doesn't it?

And finally when the music does stop, when it's all done and dusted and it comes down to the last man standing yes it's Aurelio Vidmar who comes up trumps! Being this week appointed to the position of Head Coach apparently beating 40 other prospective candidates. Funny that's the same number Branko Culina beat to get his possie at Sydney FC.



Ross Aloisi has had enough of standing around all day in Adelaide and is now off to the Phoenix of Wellington.

So after some 14 or so weeks of turmoil, tornadoes and total reconstruction, we can finally say Congrats to Viddie, a home-grown South Aussie product who's been a Socceroo (53 games for 18 goals) in 3 World Cup campaigns and 1996 Olympic games, Oceania player of the year in 1995 notching up more than 500 national league matches and scoring over 120 league goals in 6 different countries who will now lead the Reds into the next era of football for S.A.

But wait, there's more! Who has been appointed as Assistant Coach to Aurelio? Well, former Victorian State Coach Phil Stubbins of course. Stubbins, who heralds from Melbourne, has a wealth of football experience as a player and coach, amongst other things being crowned the Victorian "Coach of the Year" in 2005/2006. English born Stubbins played for Heidelberg United and South Melbourne FC in the National Soccer League and will officially join Adelaide United's squad for Pre Season training in June. Stubbins said of his appointment, "I am excited and elated to be working alongside Aurelio Vidmar as his assistant and I am really looking forward to getting there." That SA/VIC combination will be interesting to see when Adelaide United FC and Melbourne Victory FC compete in next year's Asian Champions League won't it? Friendly rivalry or strange bedfellows?